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Japan

Takeshita Agrees on 'Urgency' of Trade Problems

OW1303034490 Tokyo KYODO in English 0127 GMT 13 Mar 90

[By Shiro Yoneyama]

[Text] Washington, March 12 KYODO—President George Bush warned Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's special envoy Monday that trade and structural problems are endangering the "global partnership" between the United States and Japan. Bush issued the warning in a meeting with former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita at the White House, U.S. and Japanese officials said.

Secretary of State James Baker expressed similar concern about the state of the tense bilateral relationship in a separate meeting with Takeshita, leader of the largest faction within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

Takeshita told both Bush and Baker he recognizes "the urgency" of the trade problems between the two countries, including those being discussed in the ongoing Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) talks, a senior Japanese official said. The official said, however, the former premier stopped short of making specific commitments to help resolve the trade issues. Takeshita later told reporters he did not come here with specific negotiating authority.

Bush repeatedly told Takeshita that the trade problems are a "two-way street" and need to be resolved through mutual endeavors, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Takeshita told Bush that Kaifu has set up a team within his office to coordinate solutions for the SII talks. Takeshita's meetings with Bush and Baker came barely a week after a summit meeting between Bush and Kaifu in Palm Springs, California.

As in the summit, both Bush and Baker sought a "political commitment" by the Japanese leadership on the SII and trade disputes, American officials said. The White House said, "much of the discussion concerned economic issues currently existing between the two countries, and the fact that their solution will require extraordinary efforts on both sides of the Pacific."

Takeshita indicated that the Kaifu government "has become increasingly aware of the urgency of the problems facing the two countries," Press Secretary Marlin Fitzwater said in a statement.

Bush stressed the need for resolution of the structural and trade problems between the two countries, officials said.

The senior Japanese official said Bush, citing "excessive use of rhetoric" about the bilateral relationship in both countries, emphasized that the protracted SII dialogue has to make progress.

"We have to remove stumbling blocks to our mutual trust," the official quoted Takeshita as telling Bush.

Takeshita arrived Saturday en route to Brazil where he will attend the inauguration ceremony for President-Elect Fernando Collor de Mello as Kaifu's special envoy.

Bush told Takeshita that the U.S.-Japan security treaty remains important despite trade rows, according to the Japanese officials.

Bush and Takeshita "also discussed the public pressure on both sides of the Pacific concerning the U.S.-Japan relationship and the necessity for leaders in both countries to reinvigorate the relationship," Fitzwater said.

Takeshita heard the same U.S. commitment to the mutual defense alliance in a subsequent meeting with Defense Secretary Dick Cheney.

Japanese officials said Bush expressed his resolve to forge a strong "global partnership" between the U.S. and Japan, and hailed Tokyo's economic aid to Poland and Hungary. The two countries have also worked closely or economic policy coordination, the Third World debt strategy, the war on drugs and other issues of mutual interest.

Takeshita will meet Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady and House Speaker Thomas Foley on Tuesday.

Further on Takeshita Talks With U.S. Officials

OW1303063290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0335 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Washington, March 12 KYODO—President George Bush warned former Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita on Monday that unresolved bilateral trade problems are endangering the "global partnership" between the United States and Japan. Bush issued the warning in a 60-minute meeting with Takeshita at the White House, U.S. and Japanese officials said.

The President asked Takeshita, leader of the largest faction in Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), to do what he could to achieve progress in structural and sectoral trade talks between the two countries. Bush cited protectionist pressure in the U.S. Congress and "excessive use of rhetoric" about the bilateral relationship in both countries, a senior Japanese official said.

The meeting at the White House followed a quickly arranged U.S.-Japan summit between Bush and Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu in Palm Springs, California, on March 2-3. As in the meeting with Kaifu, Japanese officials said, Bush stressed to Takeshita that the two countries need to make tangible progress in the Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) talks if the "global partnership" is to be maintained.

But neither Bush nor Takeshita raised the issue of Super 301 talks on supercomputers, satellites and forest products, areas where the U.S. claims that Japan keeps trade barriers against its products as determined under the 1988 U.S. Trade Act.

Takeshita also met Secretary of State James Baker and Defense Secretary Dick Cheney on Monday to discuss trade and defense relations.

Japanese and U.S. experts resumed talks on satellites here Monday, which will be followed by similar negotiations on supercomputers and forest products later in the week.

In Tokyo, Kaifu and his key ministers Tuesday emphasized coordinated efforts by the government and the LDP to bring the SII dialogue with the U.S. to a successful conclusion, officials there said.

"We have to remove stumbling blocks to our mutual trust," Takeshita was quoted as telling Bush as he concurred with the President on the importance of the "global partnership" between Tokyo and Washington. He also told Bush that Kaifu has set up a team within his office to coordinate solutions for the SII talks, which have made little progress since their start last year.

Takeshita's meetings with Bush and his top advisers came amid growing recriminations between Americans and Japanese over their huge trade imbalance and active Japanese investment in the U.S.

A Japanese official said Bush sought Takeshita's help in fighting protectionism in the U.S., arguing he cannot carry out the job alone.

White House Press Secretary Marlin Fitzwater said, "the two leaders also discussed the public pressures on both sides of the Pacific concerning the U.S.-Japan relationship and the necessity for leaders in both countries to reinvigorate the relationship."

Also discussed was the U.S.-Japan security relationship, which has been threatened by incessant trade disputes, stemming in part from the U.S. trade deficit with Japan of about 50 billion dollars a year.

Takeshita met the U.S. leaders before leaving Tuesday for Brazil where he will attend the inauguration ceremony for President-Elect Fernando Collor de Mello as Prime Minister Kaifu's special envoy.

Baker told Takeshita that the U.S. anticipates "meaningful progress" in an interim report on the SII talks to be released in mid-April, according to a Japanese participant in the meeting at the State Department.

Referring to the 1985 Plaza accord on exchange rate realignment, Takeshita told Baker that Japanese companies had made successful adjustments to the strengthened yen that resulted from the agreement.

"But it does not mean American companies failed" to implement their own belt-tightening measures, Takeshita said after the meeting.

Takeshita and Baker were instrumental in realizing the Plaza pact as finance minister and Treasury secretary, respectively.

Takeshita later conferred with Cheney at the Pentagon, commending him on his trip to Tokyo, which he said has greatly improved defense ties between the two countries. The defense relationship soured last year as a result of a controversy over a project to jointly develop and produce the fighter support experimental or FSX, the new generation of Japanese warplanes.

Takeshita told reporters he did not come to the U.S. with any negotiating authority.

He is scheduled to meet Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady and House Speaker Thomas Foley on Tuesday morning. Brady attended the White House session between Bush and Takeshita, along with Baker.

Japanese officials said Bush and Takeshita did not discusss foreign exchange markets, where the yen has been falling in value against the dollar to the dismay of Japanese monetary authorities.

Kaifu Intends To Make 'Final Decision' on SII

OW1303073590 Tokyo KYODO in English 0703 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 13 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Tuesday declared his firm determination to exert his leadership in settling talks with the United States on removing structural barriers to trade and investment, government spokesman Misoji Sakamoto said.

Kaifu told the day's cabinet session "I intend to make the final decision myself" on Japan's response to the Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) talks. Kaifu told the ministers it is in the best interests of the Japanese people to successfully resolve both the talks on the structural barriers to trade and sectoral talks on supercomputers, forest products, and satellites.

In the March 2-3 summit meeting with U.S. President George Bush in Palm Springs, California, Kaifu promised to tackle structural reforms in Japan as "one of top priorities" of his cabinet.

The United States, irritated with its chronic trade deficit with Japan, has urged Tokyo to open up its market wider. Among U.S. demands are an easing of regulations on the opening of large retail stores, a boost in Japanese public works spending, and a tighening of the Antimonopoly Law.

The two countries are scheduled to work out an interim report on progress in the SII talks by early April and a final report in July. Kaifu was quoted as telling the

cabinet, "Japan cannot survive if it is isolated from international society," and urged his ministers to give their full cooperation.

Meanwhile, three key cabinet ministers responsible for the main issues being raised in the talks—the foreign minister, the finance minister, and the international trade and industry minister—stressed the urgency of resolving the structural and trade problems between the two countries in response to Kaifu's appeal.

Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama was quoted by officials as telling his colleagues, "We should realize that this issue amounts to crisis management in Japan-U.S. ties. Discontent within the U.S. Congress is surging and is on the verge of explosion," Nakayama said.

Nakayama later said at a press meeting it is clear that Busl. is seriously concerned about the U.S.-Japan trade talks from his just concluded meeting with former Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita in Washington. Bush told Takeshita that trade and structural issues are endangering the "global partnership" between the two countries.

International Trade and Industry Minister Kabun Muto, meanwhile, told reporters after the cabinet session that the government is doing its utmost to work out concrete measures by March 20 in response to U.S. requests in the SII talks. Muto said it is not an easy task to formulate the necessary measures, however, because of the various domestic groups that oppose any change.

Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto was quoted as telling the cabinet meeting, "It is necessary to have strong determination to realize what the government should accomplish in spite of condiderable pain."

Nakayama Urges Quick Action on U.S. Demands

OW1303031990 Tokyo KYODO in English 0159 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 13 KYODO—Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama urged his cabinet colleagues Tuesday to act quickly on U.S. demands for greater access to the Japanese markets, warning that failure to act may lead to a collapse in the bilateral relationship. "We should realize that this issue amounts to crisis management in Japan-U.S. ties," Nakayama was quoted by officials as telling his colleagues at a regular twice-weekly cabinet session.

Nakayama issued the warning as both countries stepped up efforts to remove strains in bilateral ties stemming from U.S. complaints that Japanese markets are closed to foreign goods. The warning underscored the urgency the government of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu attaches to the trade dispute with the United States as cabinet meetings in Japan are usually devoted to formalizing government decisions.

Nakayama said mutual trust forms the basis of the overall ties between the two countries and this trust will collapse if Japan does not act quickly to douse increasing discontent in the U.S. Congress.

"Discontent within the U.S. Congress is surging and is on the verge of explosion," he said. The U.S. Congress has become restless recently with the continued large U.S. trade deficit with Japan, which has hovered at about 50 billion dollars in recent years.

Nakayama defended Japan's trade surplus with the U.S., saying, "Japan alone should not bear overall responsibility" for the trade gap. He argued that the Japanese Government is acting in its own interest in resolving bilateral trade disputes.

Deterioration in the ties between the world's two largest economies may cause "chaos" in the world economy as a whole, Nakayama was quoted as telling the cabinet session.

Sakamoto on 'Crisis' in U.S. Trade Relations

OW1303091190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0853 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 13 KYODO— Top government spokesman Misoji Sakamoto said Tuesday Japan-U.S. relations face a crisis over trade issues. "If we fail to resolve (trade) problems, then it will be a very serious matter. In that sense, we feel this is a crisis," the chief cabinet secretary told a regularly scheduled news conference.

Earlier in the day, Taizo Watanabe, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry, told foreign correspondents Japan does not regard the situation as a crisis.

Sakamoto endorsed a statement by U.S. President George Bush that the Japan-U.S. global partnership cannot succeed without resolution of issues like the Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) talks, which are aimed at removing structural barriers to trade and investment. Bush made the comment in a meeting with former Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita in Washington on Monday.

Sakamoto, however, criticized a perception occasionally voiced in Washington that Tokyo is unable to respond to trade issues without outside pressure. "This sense of crisis is not a result of U.S. pressure," he said.

Watanabe said he expects a March 13-16 visit to Japan by U.S. Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher to be "useful" in resolving trade issues. Mosbacher met Japanese reporters last week and said he anticipates the visit will be the first "real opportunity" to make progress, because Tokyo has begun to stress the benefit of the talks for Japanese consumers.

Ozawa Urges 'Concrete Results' in SII Talks

OW1303132090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1250 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 13 KYODO—Liberal Democratic Party Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa called Tuesday for concrete results in the current U.S.-Japan trade talks, saying administrative measures should be used to solve specific product disputes. Ozawa, in a lecture at a Tokyo hotel, said he wanted to do all that could be done but rejected a prioritization of problem areas in the ongoing Structural Impediments Intiative (SII) talks.

U.S. demands in the SII talks urge reform of laws governing large retail stores, tougher antimonopoly provisions and more public spending.

Ozawa also touched on market-opening demands in three sectors under the "Super 301" provisions of the 1988 U.S. Omnibus Trade Act, which requires retaliation if progress in market liberalization is not found to be satisfactory.

Restrictions on the import of satellites, supercomputers and forestry products could be dealt with "through administrative measures," Ozawa said. "The three areas are not problems of (domestic) law," he said.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu has urged his finance, foreign and trade ministers to spare no efforts in producing concrete suggestions for a mid-term report on the talks due to be worked out in April.

Ozawa said Japan "must be able to say we've produced results in response to U.S. Government and congressional calls."

In a brief commentary on Japan-Soviet ties, Ozawa said "intransigent" stances on both sides would not lead to dialogue. "We both need to take one step forward from our prior positions," he said. Japan has maintained a policy of "inseparability" of progress in political and economic ties toward the Soviet Union halting economic cooperation with Moscow pending the return of northern islands off Hokkaido.

Ozawa said a scheduled visit by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev next year is a sign of fundamentally progressive thinking.

Changes in U.S.-Soviet relations, he said, would "naturally" affect America's ties with Japan politically, economically, and militarily.

A visit by Ozawa to Moscow in May to discuss the dispute over the possession of the four northern islands is considered highly likely.

Efforts To Work Out SII Proposals Stressed

OW1303034690 Tokyo KYODO in English 0209 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 13 KYODO—International Trade and Industry Minister Kabun Muto said Tuesday the government is doing its utmost to work out concrete measures by March 20 in response to U.S. requests in the Structural Impediments Initiative. But Muto said it is not an easy task to formulate the necessary measures because of the various domestic groups that oppose any change. The initiative is aimed at removing structural barriers to trade and investment.

The U.S. requests are aimed at boosting foreign access to the Japanese market through structural changes that include strengthening the antimonopoly law, scrapping the large-scale retail stores law, and increasing public works spending.

An interim report on progress in the bilateral trade talks is scheduled to be issued in early April.

The Japanese Government is under pressure to come up with some action programs by the time of the report in order to assuage growing frustration in the U.S. Congress over an apparent lack of progress in the talks.

Muto told a press conference following a cabinet meeting it is not even certain whether the government can come up with some proposals satisfactory to the United States by the time the report is due to be issued. He said the three ministers principally concerned in the talks—the foreign minister, the finance minister, and himself—all stressed in the cabinet meeting the urgency of the problem.

They all urged that Japan should take actions for its own good even if they entail "considerable pain," according to Muto.

Trade Surplus 'Continued Shrinking' in Feb

OW1303080690 Tokyo KYODO in English 0753 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 13 KYODO—Japan's merchandise trade surplus continued shrinking in February for the 10th consecutive month, the Finance Ministry said in a preliminary report Tuesday. The trade surplus, measured on a customs-clearance basis, fell 30.8 percent from the same month a year earlier to 5,004.72 million dollars before adjustment for seasonal factors.

The decline followed a hefty 89.5 percent decrease in the previous month, ministry officials said. The report said imports rose 11.9 percent in February from a year earlier to an unadjusted 16,953.65 million dollars, marking a double-digit year-on-year increase for the seventh straight month.

The officials attributed the growth chiefly to a 43.9 percent surge in the value of crude oil imports reflecting higher oil prices. The volume of oil imports increased

only 11.7 percent. Crude oil prices averaged 19.35 dollars per barrel in February, an increase of 28.8 percent from an average 15.02 dollars a year before, the officials said.

Exports shed 1.9 percent over a year before to an unadjusted 21,958.37 million dollars for the fifth month in a row.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the Japanese trade surplus came to 5,697.8 million dollars in February, up from a revised 3,983.9 million dollars the previous month. After allowing for seasonal adjustment, exports were nearly flat from January at 23,101.1 million dollars, while imports were down 6.8 percent at 17,403.3 million dollars.

Japan's trade surplus with the United States fell 28.5 percent from a year earlier, the fifth straight month in which it has fallen, to 2,964.7 million dollars, though the figure is not seasonally adjusted, the officials said. Exports to the U.S. slipped 5.9 percent from a year earlier to 7,121.1 million dollars, while imports from the U.S., Japan's biggest trading partner, increased 21.4 percent to 4,156.3 million dollars.

The officials attributed the contraction in U.S.-bound exports mainly to shrinking exports of cars, electronics products including semiconductors, and some items of general machinery.

On the import side, Japan purchased more U.S. lumber, office equipment, electronics, and aircraft than it did a year earlier. Imports of U.S.-made office equipment surged 46.9 percent, while those of American aircraft scored a 5.9-fold increase.

During the 11 months from last April to February this year, Japan's trade surplus with the U.S. fell compared with the period from April 1988 to February last year by 5,971 million dollars to 38,976 million dollars. The nation's overall trade surplus during the same 11 months also declined by 19,680 million dollars to 52,586 million dollars, the ministry said.

In trade with the 12-nation European Community, Japan registered a surplus of 1,881.1 million dollars before seasonal adjustment in the same period, nearly the same shrinkage as was posted a year earlier.

The ministry said the ratio of manufactured goods to the total amount of imports in February slightly exceeded 50 percent.

Exports to the EC rose 7.6 percent in February from a year earlier to 4,294.9 million dollars, while imports from the EC grew at a faster pace of 14.7 percent to 2,413.8 million dollars.

Growth was notable in exports of steel products, posting a 2.1 fold jump in value over a year earlier, and those of office equipment including computers, which rose 24.6 percent.

In trade with Asia, excluding China, Japan had a surplus of 1,487.0 million dollars in February, while the balance of trade with China showed a deficit of 359.0 million dollars. Exports to China plunged 48.8 percent from a year earlier to 390.4 million dollars in the wake of China's austerity policy, while imports from China climbed 3.3 percent to 749.4 million dollars.

In the February data, the ministry used an average exchange rate of 144.98 yen to the dollar in calculating the value of exports, down from an average 128.50 yen the year before.

Imports were calculated on an average 144.93 yen, also down from 128.49 yen a year earlier.

BOJ Official Hints at Discount Rate Hike

OW1303071990 Tokyo KYODO in English 0249 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Basel, Switzerland, March 13 KYODO—A senior Bank of Japan (BOJ) official Tuesday hinted at the possibility of an imminent hike in the nation's official discount rate by pointing to a number of conditions that would warrant such a hike. "The economy is not overheated and prices are stable. However, when you look at the future of the economy, you cannot ignore the growing labor shortage and the increasing costs of imports due to the depreciation of the yen and higher oil prices," he said.

"The money supply is on the rise as is the price of land outside major metropolitan areas in Japan," he said.

The official spoke to reporters on condition that he not be identified. He made the comments after a regular monthly meeting of central bank governors from the so-called Group of 10 industrial nations assembled at the Bank for International Settlements here.

"We are currently monitoring the effects of the previous rate hikes on the economy," he said. Although he did not allude to the exact timing of a possible discount rate hike, the official did say, "monetary policy does not adhere to timetables."

When asked about the meeting of central bank chiefs and finance ministers of the so-called Group of Seven (G-7) industrialized nations early next month, the official said he has not been contacted.

He declined to comment on the current exchange rate levels.

Apprehension Over Lithuanian-Soviet Issue Noted

OW1303120090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1143 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 13 KYODO—Japan is apprehensive over developments between Lithuania and the Soviet Union in the wake of Lithuania's declaration of its independence and hopes that they settle the issue

through constructive talks, Foreign Ministry spokesman Taizo Watanabe said Tuesday.

"Japan is carefully watching the situation with deep concern and apprehension, Watanabe told reporters. "The will of the people must be respected. But on the other hand, the issue involves a very important question on the fundamental system of the Soviet Union itself," Watanabe said.

Watanabe noted that Lithuania and the Soviet Union have legal relations as local district and central government which is recognized by both parties' agreement in 1940.

The Independent Lithuanian Republic was first established in 1918. It was incorporated into the Soviet Union in 1940 when Red Army troops under Josef Stalin occupied the republic along with the other Baltic republics of Latvia and Estonia.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, whose drives for reforms triggered independence moves among Soviet republics, expressed alarm over the independence declaration.

The Soviet Government is proposing to set up legal procedures on the constitutional right of Soviet Republics to secede from the Soviet Union.

Mongolia

Batmonh, Sodnom To Retain Government Positions

OW1303054790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0524 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, March 13 KYODO—Mongolia's top leader Jambyn Batmonh will remain in office as the chairman of the Presidium of the People's Great Hural or head of state, a Mongolian Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

Premier Dumaagiyn Sodnom will also continue to be the chairman of the Council of Ministers, the spokesman said.

Batmonh on Monday proposed the resignation of all Political Bureau members of the ruling [Mongolian] People's Revolutionary Party to pave the way for establishing a new leadership.

Batmonh is the general secretary of the ruling party, and Sodnom is one of the party's seven Political Bureau members.

Further Reportage on Central Committee Plenum

New Politburo Composition Undecided

LD1303094990 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0823 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Ulaanbaatar (ADN-Corr)—Discussions by the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party [MPRP] Central Committee were still continuing in Ulaanbaatar on Tuesday. The participants of the meeting, which still have to make a formal decision on the resignation of the party's most senior leadership, have not so far been able to agree on the composition of a new Politburo.

As the final point on its agenda, the plenum—which has, contrary to former discussions, not ended in one day—intends to discuss personnel changes for the parliamentary session. It is to nominate MPRP candidates for the post of head of state and head of government.

Party Elders Question Reforms

HK1303103690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0850 GMT 13 Mar 90

[By Robert MacPherson]

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, March 13 (AFP)—A watershed plenum of Mongolia's ruling Communist Party hit resistance Tuesday as a handful of elders questioned a proposed package of sweeping political reforms, informed sources said.

The two-day plenum of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party (MPRP) Central Committee was scheduled to end Tuesday with the resignation of the five member politburo, one of the key demands of Mongolia's fledgling democracy movement. But a handful of elders was reported to be putting up resistance to the changes spelled out by Jambyn Batmonh, 63, who is both Mongolia's president and MPRP general secretary, the sources said.

The plenum was now expected to end Wednesday at the earliest, the sources said, adding that practically all of the more than 120 participants had requested to speak. "There are more questions than had been expected" one source told AFP, outside the closed-door meeting at the Grey House, Mongolia's seat of government.

One of the stumbling blocks was the fate of former Mongolian leader Yumjaagiyn Tsedenbal, held responsible for years of economic stagnation and dominance by the Soviet Union. Mr. Tsedenbal, who was succeeded in 1984 by Mr. Batmonh, now lives in Moscow and many progressives here would like to see him expelled from the party and publicly rebuked.

Another informed source said "arguments" had broken out during the plenum but he predicted that the meeting would end with a wide majority of delegates supporting Mr. Batmonh's reforms. Under those reforms Mr. Batmonh and premier Dumaagiyn Sodnom would be among the five politburo members to resign but they would

retain their state posts pending Mongolia's first free elections expected to take place later this year.

The central committee is also expected to ask the People's Grand Hural (parliament) scheduled to meet here March 21 to amend the constitution to end the ruling party's monopoly on power. This would formally clear the way for multi-party democracy in the world's oldest communist state after the Soviet Union.

In another development, Mongolia got its third opposition political party, with a platform to change this landlocked nation of two million into a capitalist system as soon as possible. Heading the Party for National Progress (PNP), which claims more than 800 members, is Damdinsouren Batshuk, a 38-year-old teacher of political economy who has yet to tear up his membership of the ruling party. "Our society is now in crisis," he told a press conference in the auditorium of Ulaanbaatar Polytechnic. "Society needs to be changed on a democratic basis."

The walls beside the stage were decorated with framed declarations of past ruling party congresses.

Economic spokesman for the party is Sukhe Erdene, vice president of Mongolia's central bank and great grandson of Sukhe Baator who founded the Mongolian People's Republic with Soviet support in 1921. He said the new party would contest general elections expected in June or July on a platform of free market principles and private property—a dramatic change for Mongolia which has only known collectivisation and central planning. Other parties have proposed the same, he said, "but our difference is that we want to shift right away, as is being done in Poland." The 33-year-old banker is a fluent English speaker with a penchant for buying tailored suits.

Besides the Party for National Progress, Mongolia's opposition parties include the Mongolian Democratic Party, and the Mongolian Social Democratic Party. Together with the Mongolian Students' Union they form a coalition that has been negotiating with the ruling party for reform.

PNP leaders said the opposition coalition would meet with the Comunist Party after the plenum to discuss among other issues providing better logistics for the opposition parties, some of which lack even a headquarters in this country where photo-copying machines must be licensed by the state.

Protesters Demand Live Coverage

OW1303105090 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] In Ulaanbaatar the regular Eighth Plenum of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee continues discussing issues related to the convocation of an extraordinary congress of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party as well as changes in the constitutional provision of the guiding role of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party.

The plenum is also considering three points of organizational questions of full-stop resignation of the Politburo and party Central Committee Secretariat, reshuffle of the party Central Committee, and election of new Politburo and Secretariat.

The last point of the agenda envisages the nomination of candidates for the posts of chairman of the Presidium of the Great People's Hural and chairman of the Council of Ministers.

In the meantime a group of Mongolian Democratic Association supporters held a manifestation in front of the Government House demanding a continued direct TV and radio transmission of the plenum. The morning radio and television broadcast covered only the speech of General Secretary of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee Batmonh at the plenum.

District Meeting in Capital Supports Party

OW1303074890 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] The Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party Committee of Suhbaatar District of Ulaanbaatar had a mass meeting in support of the party's policy Sunday. Speakers there had supported the idea of a multiparty system in Mongolia and spoke for change in the activity of the party. Several people expressed their disagreement with the actions of the Mongolian Democratic Association and other opposition forces and accused them of interfering in the party's internal affairs, as the latter demand the Politburo's departure.

Rural Organization Supports Political Declaration

OW1303113190 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] The newly set up Mongolian Union of Herdsmen and Land Farmers has issued an appeal to the Mongolian people, political parties, and forces of the country. It expresses support to the political declaration issued the other day by political forces of Mongolia.

The union declares to take part in the elaboration of a draft Constitution and draft bill on election to the people's hural so as to represent the interest of livestock breeders, land farmers, and all rural workers.

The union calls upon the associations, movements, and all other forces to unite in defending the rights of rural inhabitants, notes the appeal.

Union Leader Declares Free Trade Union Movement

OW1303111890 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] From now the Mongolian trade unions will be called Free Trade Union Movement, said trade union leader Lubsantseren speaking over national TV. Being free from all political parties and organizations, the Free Trade Union Movement will work for building humane and democratic socialism in Mongolia.

Mr. Lubsantseren has informed that a regular trade union congress will be held in May this year. According to the schedule, it should have been held in 1992.

Paper Changes Motto; Represents All Unions

OW1303075490 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] The trade union newspaper HODOLMOR comes out under the new motto: Let Good Days Be Disseminated; instead of the traditional: Proletarians of All Countries Unite. From now it is no more the organ of the Mongolian Trade Union Central Council, but of all trade union members in the entire nation. HODOLMOR is one of the most popular newspapers in Mongolia.

Fund of Patriotic Unity Established; Meets

OW1303115290 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] A constituent meeting of the Fund of Patriotic Unity of Mongolia was held in Ulaanbaatar Saturday. It consists of scholars, literary men, journalists, and artists. According to Mr. Hoshan, one of the initiators of the fund, the fund's goal is to gather together all forces who come out for democracy, cohesion, and renovation. The fund adopted its interim platform basis and rules which will be effective until its congress.

Commission Rehabilitates Repressed Army Leaders

OW1303074790 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] The Politburo commission of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party [MPRP] Central Committee on rehabilitation of illegal victims of the repressions of the 30's and 40's held its regular meeting in Ulaanbaatar. The commission approved the rehabilitation of 22 supreme commanders of the People's Army and restored their membership in the MPRP.

According to the rehabilitation commission, in the 30's and 40's 610 military men were repressed from whom only 20 percent have been rehabilitated so far.

North Korea

Ministry Releases Memorandum on 'Concrete Wall'

SK1303032090 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1310 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] The DPRK Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 12 March published a memorandum on the fact that the United States and the South Korean authorities are deepening division and confrontation under the hypocritical slogan of reunification and detente after building a concrete wall.

The full text of the memorandum follows:

It is an international trend today to pull down the wall, a symbol of East-West confrontation, and head toward reconciliation and unity, making free travels. The removal of obstacles and difficulties hindering national reunification, bringing about a fundamental turn in the solution of the reunification question while staying in step with the trend of the present-day situation, is an important task facing the Korean nation.

President Kim Il-song, the respected leader of our people, has issued a new reunification proposal that calls for the removal of the concrete wall built in the area south of the Military Demarcation Line, MDL, and free travel and complete openness between the North and South of Korea. This proposal reflects the ardent desire of the entire Korean people for reunification and the requirements of the times. Nevertheless, the United States and the South Korean authorities still refuse to back down from their stance of division and confrontation and keep to the road of increasing the tension and creating two Koreas. They claim in a farfetched way that there is no concrete wall. Such a position remains far from manifesting their intention to work for reunification by pulling down the wall of division built by them.

Considering it necessary to expose the divisive and confrontational moves taken by the United States and the South Korean authorities under the hypocritic slogan of reunification and detente—moves taken after the building of the concrete wall—the DPRK Foreign Ministry is issuing this memorandum.

1. The concrete wall is a symbol of division and confrontation.

Underlying the political background of the concrete wall, which has been built south of the MDL and which extends some 240 km, is the two Koreas policy of the United States and the South Korean authorities. When the historical North-South joint statement was published on 4 July 1972 and reunification sentiments were mounting among the South Korean people, the U.S. authorities, much upset by this, came out with cross recognition. This policy was aimed at creating a climate for two Koreas and led the South Korean authorities to declare their two Koreas policy in June 1973.

Meanwhile, the United States and the South Korean authorities brought the hard-won North-South dialogue to suspension. They intensified their suppression of South Korean forces that supported reunification and started the Team Spirit joint military exercises that are targeted against our Republic. At that time, in 1977, the South Korean authorities, at the instigation of the United States, began building the concrete wall that divides the Korean peninsula at its waist. Even during the initial days of building the concrete wall they did not bother to conceal the fact that this wall was a barrier to perpetuate the division of the Korean peninsula and aggravate North-South confrontation.

In 1979 Pak Chong-hui, the ruler of South Korea at that time, turned up at the construction site of the concrete wall while prowling around in the frontline area during the Team Spirit '79 joint military exercises. While he was there he said: We cannot live with the Communists of the North. They do not belong to our nation. It doesn't matter whether the nation is divided into two or three. Expend all energy on the construction of the wall!

Chon Tu-hwan, the former dictator who personally directed the construction of the wall on Pak Chong-hui's instructions, said at the construction site late in June 1978: What are we building this wall for? Although we tell foreigners that it is intended to deter the so-called threat from the North, it is a camouflaging tactic. It is, in fact, intended for internal security; namely, it is intended to dampen the earnest popular sentiments for reunification and the growing movement toward it. We intend to build the concrete wall high and scare those who want reunification out of their wits. We will do this so they abandon their hope for reunification and the like.

Thus, the concrete wall was built as a wall of division meant to break the growing movement toward reunification in South Korea and bisect the Korean peninsula.

A Japanese KYODO reporter, who saw the concrete wall when its construction was at its height, wrote: A big fence called a great wall is under construction in the South side's area of the Demilitarized Zone, the DMZ, which is 2 km wide on either side of the truce line. The upper part of the wall on the side facing North Korea is shaped like a sickle. It is a permanent concrete structure inlaid with piles of stones. According to sources of the U.S. forces present in South Korea, this is a barrier crossing the peninsula, whose construction was undertaken on major fronts in the period from late 1977 to early 1978, and finally is planned to be built nearly along the whole length of the front extending about 250 km.

These statements were printed in the Japanese paper SHINANO MAINICHI on 27 January 1979.

When the construction of the concrete wall was completed, the South Korean authorities held a ceremony full of pomp and splendor, officially announcing to the world the existence of division and confrontation. On 29 December 1979, Choe Kyu-ha, the then president of South Korea, showed up at the ceremony accompanied by the defense minister, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the commander of the U.S. forces present in South Korea to cut the tape.

Reports about it and photographs showing the concrete wall were carried in all the South Korean newspapers on 30 December 1979.

Even according to understated figures published by the South Korean authorities, the concrete wall cost 3,200 million won. Heavy arms were installed at its major points and even automatically operated iron gates on rails, through which tanks are passable. This was reported in the South Korean papers CHOSON ILBO and SEOUL SINMUN on 30 December 1979.

It is only too clear that such a concrete wall is a wall of division and, at the same time, a wall of confrontation serving as a launching position for an attack on the North. Because of the construction of this wall, 122 villages and eight counties have been separated into North and South; several railroads, three highways, and more than 220 large and small roads have been severed, along with the veins of the Korean nation. The facts prove that the concrete wall is a symbol of national division and North-South confrontation.

2. The concrete wall is a target of protest and denunciation of the Korean and the world people.

The Korean people must remove the MDL to reunify the country. It can only disgrace the nation to build a new wall of division instead of removing the MDL for the sake of national reunification. Therefore, the entire Korean people have strongly demanded that the South Korean authorities refrain from acts of leaving a stain on the history of the nation.

In April 1979 the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland issued a statement that exposed the injustice of the construction of this artificial wall of division. The statement, noting that the construction of the wall was undertaken with disregard to all fellow countrymen's desire for reunification, urged an immediate halt to the wall's construction.

We strongly demanded on many occasions that the U.S. side immediately discontinue the construction of this wall of division. These occasions included the 393d, 395th and 396th meetings of the Military Armistice Commission held on 26 June, 31 August, and 2 October 1979.

Global protests also were voiced against the building of the concrete wall. Following the World Federation of Trade Unions' anti-wall statement, which was issued 25 April 1979 when the wall was under construction, public circles of many countries loudly raised their voices to demand an immediate pulling down of the barrier.

Now is the time when the wall of division and confrontation built during the cold war days that followed World War II is crumbling. The new reunification proposal of the DPRK Government to pull down the concrete wall

and realize free travel and complete openness has evoked the broadest and most active response ever experienced in the world arena. In the first two months of this year alone, the political, press, and public circles of over 120 countries strongly demanded the earliest possible removal of the barrier of division in Korea. Presidents, parliamentary speakers, and foreign ministers of different countries expressed official stands supporting our new initiative.

Thus, the concrete wall, the likes of which cannot be found in any other place of the world, has been the target of strong protest and denunciation of the Korean people and the peace-loving people of the world from the first days of its construction up until the present.

3. The wall of division must be removed.

It is an inevitable historic process that walls of division are razed and divided countries reunified. There is no ground for the United States and the South Korean authorities to refuse to tear down the concrete wall in Korea, especially considering they welcomed the destruction of a wall of division in another country. The United States and the South Korean authorities, however, still cling to the policy of division and confrontation. Instead of demolishing the concrete wall, they are resorting to subterfuges and intrigues to conceal the crime of having built it.

The South Korean authorities had claimed out of hand that there was no concrete wall, even though it really existed. Later, they were driven to explain the wall because of pressure from the world public, and now they are insisting in a farfetched manner that it is an anti-tank barrier. If it were an anti-tank barrier as they claim, two meters in height would be enough even according to their own military textbook. But, they built it five to eight meters high. Also, if it were an anti-tank barrier, they would not have built it even on the ridges of steep mountains, which already are inaccessible to tanks.

The South Korean authorities even staged a poor farce to build up a public opinion that there is no wall in the South side's area of the Military Demarcation Line, manipulating reporters. The U.S. newspaper THE WALL STREET JOURNAL said on 27 February 1990 that the South Korean authorities took reporters to a place where there is no concrete wall and tried to make them believe the wall does not exist. But, a new light was shed on the truth about it by the testimonies of those who had been mobilized in the building of the wall and of those who witnessed it.

At the 454th meeting of the Military Armistice Commission held on 2 February, Larry G. Vogt, the senior member of the U.S. side, in face of the undeniable, stark fact, said that there is a concrete wall, but outside the Demilitarized Zone along the MDL. He also said the problem of the barrier must be resolved by the South Korean authorities. This means that the United States actually admitted the existence of the concrete wall.

Confronted with the mounting world opinion demanding the pulling down of the wall, the United States and the South Korean authorities sought a countermeasure to quell it. This countermeasure was the farfetched fourth tunnel incident—an incident that they invented.

As the entire Korean people and the world public know, the concrete wall is a product of the splittists' two Koreas policy. If the South Korean authorities truly intend to defuse mistrust and confrontation between the North and the South and promote confidence and reconciliation, they must first of all tear down the concrete wall at an early date.

In our area north of the MDL there is no barrier except a barbed wire fence marking the Demarcation Line. Once again, we declare that we are ready to remove it anytime.

The concrete wall, a symbol of division and confrontation, must be removed and free travel and full-scale openness between the North and South must be realized without fail in line with the trend of the times—the trend of detente and reconciliation.

[Dated] 12 March 1990, Pyongyang.

Fourth Tunnel Said for 'Northward Invasion'

OW1203163990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1532 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang, March 12 (KCNA)—What the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets call the "fourth tunnel" incident is a fiction which has nothing to do with the DPRK and that the "counter shaft digging" is an anti-North drama motivated by a sinister political aim.

Maj. General of the Korean People's Army Kim Yong-chol stated this at a press conference with home and foreign reporters called today by the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland.

Laying bare the truth and the background of the "fourth tunnel" incident on the basis of concrete facts, he said:

The South Korean puppets on March 3 announced that they had completed a "counter shaft digging toward a tunnel dug by the North for southward invasion."

But the material evidences produced by them are sheer nonsense.

There were two things brought forward by the puppets as evidences. One of them is that "Korean reunification" was written in paint on a wall of the tunnel. But, that expression is not used in spoken and written languages by the people in the northern half of the country and the People's Army soldiers. They would have written "national reunification" if they had done it.

Another evidence is that the tunnel slopes upward in the southern direction from the north, in which case they claimed it is easy to drain water while digging the tunnel. This is a nonsense that cannot convince anybody.

Even in the map presented by them the tunnel slopes down southward from the north and then runs horizontally. The day after the completion of the "counter shaft digging," they said, a search team of the puppet army went into the tunnel and found water 40 centimetres deep was standing there. So, their allegation about the sloping tunnel is unbelievable and their argument that underground water was drained northward in tunnel digging is a lie.

Besides, they claimed they discovered in the "fourth tunnel" an "insulator," a "sleeper," a "wire" and so forth. However, they failed to show on the screen the scene of "counter shaft digging," any of these things or those words "reunification of Korea."

The size of the tunnel announced by the enemy also proves that the incident is a fake and a plot.

The enemy claimed that the "tunnel" is two metres high and two metres wide, which is capable of letting 30,000 troops and artillery pieces pass at a time in an hour.

Such a dome-shaped small tunnel, however, cannot let pass even small military commanding vehicle 1.7-1.9 metre wide and 1.8-2 metre high, still less our artillery pieces 2.7-2.9 metre wide and 2.6-2.7 metre high in action.

If soldiers carrying arms, whose shoulders estimated at 60-80 centimetres in width each, pass through it in a column of three rows, three men will march past every second, totalling 10,800 men an hour at most. Their announcement is mistaken in the light of rudimentary arithmetical calculation and still more ridiculous from the military point of view.

It is quite nonsensical to say that the "tunnel" dug on the mid-slope of a steep mountain is for "a surprise attack on the South" and if the tunnel is to be stretched to the South across the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) of the Military Demarcation Line (MDL), more than one kilometre must be dug farther. And the enemy said that there is knee-deep standing water in the tunnel. If so, it means that the tunnel is now abandoned and the purpose and use of it is unknown.

Judging from the present state of the tunnel, no one can tell if it is a natural cave or an abandoned mine pit or a tunnel dug during the last war.

The enemy said that no sooner had it seen a picture of a sleeper taken by the endoscope of a boring machine than it started a counter shaft digging toward the tunnel with the mobilisation of "a tremendous number of personnel and modern special equipment" at one time. But this only tells that it was a premeditated plot.

Kim Yong-chol proved that the "tunnel" which the puppets say was "discovered" by them is a tunnel dug by them to invade the North.

When the secret of the tunnel project leaked through various channels at the end of last year, the enemy detained men of the press who had reported about it and the puppet Defense Ministry itself spurted to the foreground and offered excuses, claiming that it was not a tunnel but "a natural cave."

Reports about tunnel digging in the eastern zone of the Military Demarcation Line appeared even in the U.S. press. Upset by this, the puppets misrepresented the new tunnel they had been digging as a "counter shaft" and staged the drama of "digging through the tunnel" allegedly for linking it with another tunnel and then issuing "statements" and holding a "news conference."

We declare that the "fourth tunnel" is one dug by the enemy to invade the North because we have irrefutable information that the South Korean puppets, in conspiracy with the U.S. imperialists, started digging tunnels at more than 180 spots in the area south of the MDL from the 1970s.

Our People's Army soldiers in the frontline areas are now sharply watching the enemy, saying that the deep rumbling sound of blastings and buzzing sound of machines of the enemy are something uncommon.

We say the "fourth tunnel" is one for northward invasion because the military strategy of the U.S. imperialists and the puppets are a strategy for northward invasion and it is being carried into practice. The enemy deployed more than 80 percent of their armed forces in the frontline areas according to this strategy and are watching for a chance of attack.

That the "tunnel" allegedly discovered this time may be a tunnel for northward invasion is also borne out by the enemy's data in analysing the scale of the "tunnel" and its transit capacity.

A scrutiny into the enemy's data shows that the "counter shaft" dug by him is large enough for the passage of field guns and many personnel, because the "counter shaft" is three metres in width and height.

This makes it clear that the enemy, basing himself on the "counter shaft" dug by himself into the tunnel for northward invasion and on the data on its own equipment, declared the tunnel to be a North's.

In the final analysis, the tunnel allegedly discovered by the enemy is a tunnel for northward invasion he himself dug and intended to use, not a "tunnel for southward invasion."

Clear is the purpose of the enemy in staging a hysteric anti-DPRK smear campaign, alleging that the tunnel dug by itself to invade the North is our "tunnel for southward invasion."

It seeks to keep off the influence on our new peaceful reunification proposal to pull down the concrete wall built in the area south of the Military Demarcation Line and realise free travel and complete opening and evade, if only a little, the condemnation of the "Team Spirit 90" joint military exercises by the people at home and abroad.

It also hopes to bridge over the crisis of the colonial military fascist rule which is growing acute in South Korea.

The South Korean puppets, he said, must not play a drama over the "tunnel incident" which has nothing to do with the North, but tear down the concrete wall, a symbol of the North-South confrontation and national division, and stop the "Team Spirit 90" war manoeuvres at once.

He answered questions put by reporters.

Criticism Leveled at Team Spirit Maneuvers

'Very Tense Situation' Decried

OW1203170190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1537 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 12 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists introduced into South Korea by air and ship tens of thousands of forces including their 25th Division that made itself infamous during the past Korean war of aggression and their 7th Division and 3rd Marine Division, from the U.S. mainland and Hawaii and military bases in Japan and deployed them in the operational areas entering March according to the timetable for the "Team Spirit 90" war exercises aimed at a nuclear attack on the North, according to military sources.

On March 12, they brought the extra-large nuclear-powered carrier "Carl Vinson" and a group of warships into waters 70 miles east of Pohang on the east coast of our country and let formations of craft-based planes fly in the sky above the operational area for a surprise strike training simulating a war against the North.

Meanwhile, they massed scores of warships including the large carrier "Midway," helicopter-landing craft, cruisers, destroyers, escort ships and tankers, etc. into the east and south seas of Korea.

In recent ten days, they brought formations of nuclear-capable "F-16," "F-15" and "F-111" fighter bombers, formations of "A-4" and "A-6" assault planes and hundreds of military planes of different types including pursuit planes, helicopters, antisubmarine planes, refuelling tankers, patrol planes, transport planes, electronic jamming planes, into the airforce bases of the U.S. imperialist aggression army in South Korea from the U.S. mainland and overseas bases.

All these facts prove that a very tense situation in which a war may break out any moment has been created on the Korean peninsula owing to the U.S. imperialists' moves to provoke a war of aggression.

Foreigners Express Apprehension

OW1203202590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1511 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 12 (KCNA)—Foreign public organisations and figures support the communique of the Supreme Command of the Korean People's Army on taking a self-defensive step to counter the new war provocation moves of the United States and South Korean authorities.

The Union of Democratic Youth of Jordan in a statement expressed deep apprehensions as to the tense situation created on the Korean peninsula due to the "Team Spirit 90" joint military exercises of the United States and South Korean authorities, and called upon the progressive youth and students of the world to take decisive and strong measures against their nuclear war provocation manoeuvres.

In a statement the Ghana-DPRK Friendship Association said that the order of the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army to all units of the KPA and the Korean People's Security Forces and the entire members of the Worker-Peasant Red Guard and the Young Red Guard to get fully ready for combat mobilization is a very just self-defensive step to defend the country from the attack of the aggressors.

Noting that the "Team Spirit 90" joint maneuvers being staged by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are a dangerous war racket aimed at invading the North, the statement demanded that the United States and the South Korean authorities stop at once the maneuvers in keeping with the aspiration of the world peaceloving people.

Maneuvers Destroying 'Dharma'

SK1203113190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0959 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 12 (KCNA)—Masses marking day of Buddha's nirvana were held on March 11 at the Korean temples.

At the mass held at the Yonghwa Temple in Moranbong District, Pyongyang, ceremonies of recommend offering and food offering took place and venerable Hwang Pyong-tae, vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Buddhists Federation, preached a sermon.

He said: The United States and the No Tae-u clique are now staging the large-scale "Team Spirit 90" joint military exercises which may plunge the nation into a holocaust of a nuclear war. It is a violation of the principle of avoiding sin of killing any living creature and an act of oppression.

In order to achieve a peaceful reunification of the country, it is imperative to pull down the wall and realise

free travel and complete opening between the North and the South in accordance with the proposal for national reunification put forward by respected President Kim Il-song in his New Year address, he said, and continued:

The South Korean authorities oppose reunification, claiming that there is no wall in the area South of the Military Demarcation Line. This is a challenge to the doctrine of the noble eight-fold path of "right view" and "right thought" and the principle of remaining free from deception and an act of destroying the dharma.

All the Buddhists in the North, the South and abroad, faithful to the dharma, should make devoted efforts to put an end to the "Team Spirit 90" joint military exercises, have the U.S. forces and nuclear weapons withdrawn from South Korea and tear down the concrete wall dividing the country and the nation and ensure free travel and complete opening between the North and the South, he stressed.

Hanminjon Official Calls U.S. Cutback 'Farce'

OW1203173390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1507 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 12 (KCNA)—Pak Kwang-ki, chief of the mission of the South Korean National Democratic Front (Hanminjon) in Syria, in an interview with a reporter of the SANA news agency of Syria on February 25 laid bare the deceptive nature of the announcement of the United States that three U.S. airforce bases would be "closed" and 2,000 non-combatant personnel be pulled out of South Korea on a phased basis, according to a report.

This is an intrigue to mislead world public, keep the U.S. Forces in South Korea and further strengthen the U.S. and puppet armed forces, he said.

Citing concrete examples he proved that the alleged cutback of the U.S. troops in South Korea is a farce not for a practical reduction of armed forces on the orbit of the new Pacific strategy of the United States but for drastic reinforcement. He went on:

The spread of rumours about the U.S. arms cut by the U.S. imperialists is a sinister campaign to effectively lull the growing anti-American sentiments among South Korean people and cope with the present situation toward detente and disarmament.

Hanminjon, together with the patriotic people of all segments, will get the U.S. imperialist aggression forces withdrawn to the last man from South Korea and accelerate the victory of the cause of national liberation, holding higher the banner of anti-U.S. independence.

Paper Comments on Security for U.S. in South

SK1303050890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0451 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 13 (KCNA)—The South Korean puppet police headquarters issued an "order" to the police throughout South Korea on March 10 to tighten the guard at the U.S. agencies, saying it had got an information that the "National Council of Student Representatives" (Chondaehyop) was planning to stage a sit-in strike after taking over U.S. agencies including the embassy in protest against the "Team Spirit" manoeuvres.

The repressive order issued by the No Tae-u group this time is another step to stave off the eruption of a fiercer anti-U.S. struggle of the people of all segments with the enthusiastic participation of "Chondaehyop," notes MINJU CHOSON today.

The news analyst says:

The struggle of the people against the three-party merger of the puppets and the U.S. imperialists' occupation and their policy of aggression is gaining strength in South Korea and the students are actively joining them.

With the readjustment of "Chondaehyop," a fighting organization of one million students of South Korea, the student movement for independence, democracy and reunification tends toward a more organized and active form.

It is a flunkeyist act motivated by the intention to remain in power with the patronage of the master that the No Tae-u group issued the repressive order to set the police force in motion, crying that the anti-U.S. struggle of the students will gain momentum in connection with the provocative war exercises started by it with the U.S. imperialists.

With no fascist suppression can the puppets check the ever growing anti-U.S. struggle of the South Korean students and people for independence.

Kim Il-song Marks Mauritian Independence Day

OW1203201490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1540 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 12 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea sent a message of greetings on March 9 to Governor-General Veerasamy Ringadoo and Prime Minister Aneerood Jugnauth of Mauritius on the occasion of the 22nd anniversary of her independence.

Expressing the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries will grow stronger and develop, the message wishes the Mauritius leaders and people great success in their endeavours for the prosperity of the country.

Hong Song-nam Meets With Vietnamese Delegation

SK1203044890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0438 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 12 (KCNA)—Vice-Premier Hong Song-nam met and had a friendly conversation with the delegation of the State Planning Commission of Vietnam headed by its Vice-Chairman Le Xuan Trinh at the Mansudae Assembly Hall on March 11.

Present on the occasion were Yon Sung-hwa, vice-chairman of the State Planning Commission, and Nguyen Van Trong, Vietnamese ambassador to Korea.

Kim Yong-nam Receives Message From Vietnam

SK1303044890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0440 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 13 (KCNA)—A letter of solidarity came to DPRK Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam from Nguyen Co Thach, minister of foreign affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, supporting the new reunification proposal put forward by the great leader President Kim Il-song in his New Year address and the Korean people's cause of national reunification.

Noting that they heard about the proposal for peaceful reunification advanced by President Kim Il-song in his New Year address for 1990, the letter said the Vietnamese party, government and people always fully support the fraternal Korean people's cause of independent and peaceful reunification. It highly estimated DPRK's new proposal for national reunification.

Supporting the DPRK's just stand on the problem of Korea's U.N. membership, the letter expressed the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries will daily grow stronger and develop in the future.

Yi Chong-ok Meets Delegation From Ethiopia

OW1203201990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1539 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 12 (KCNA)—Vice-President Yi Chong-ok met and had a friendly talk with the Ethiopian Government economic delegation led by Yoseph Muleta, minister of state farms development, at the Mansudae Assembly Hall Monday.

Present there were Minister of External Economic Affairs Chong Song-nam and Ethiopian Ambassador to Korea Fisseha Geda.

Yun Ki-pok Confers With Chongnyon Delegation

SK1003050490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0445 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 10 (KCNA)—Yun Ki-pok, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, on March 9 met and had a conversation in a compatriotic atmosphere with the delegation of Chongnyon functionaries headed by Yi Ki-sok, director of the propaganda department of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), staying in the socialist homeland.

DPRK Statement Distributed by UN Council

SK1303050090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0443 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 13 (KCNA)—The DPRK Foreign Ministry statement dated March 5 regarding measures to remove military confrontation through disarmament on the Korean peninsula was distributed as an official document of the U.N. Security Council S-21179 on March 7.

Functionaries Called on To 'Serve People'

SK1103225790 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0000 GMT 7 Mar 90

[NODONG SINMUN 7 March editorial: "All Functionaries Should Become Genuine Servants Who Devotedly Serve the People"]

[Text] Our people are vigorously accelerating the new general march while overflowing with firm confidence and optimism. Today, when the entire nation is seething with the struggle for a great upsurge, our functionaries are faced with the glorious mission of fulfilling the duty as servants of the people by cherishing the lofty sense of loyalty to the party and to the revolution.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: Functionaries of economic organizations of the party and the state should become servants of the people.

Our struggle to implement the New Year address of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and decisions of the 17th plenary meeting of the sixth party Central Committee is a sacred and rewarding work. Included in this work is a lofty intent of our party to epochally enhance the people's living standard by better and more rapidly building our socialism in accordance with the demand of chuche.

Our party is the great party actively struggling for the people by putting forward service to the people as the supreme principle in its nature, its basic mission and its activities. In accelerating the building of socialism and in making the socialist life of the people bloom, our party consistently maintained the principle of equally developing the political life, cultural life, and material life—the three domains of social life.

The great task of struggle for socialist construction put forward by our party at present is, in particular, to provide the people with a more abundant material life while continuously developing the political and cultural life of the people. The rapid development of the light industry and agriculture by directing all strength to more properly solving the question of food, clothing, and

shelter, according to the demand of socialism, and construction of 50,000 houses at one time in Pyongyang alone are the work which can be accomplished only by our party—the great servant of the people.

Our party's decision to build a genuine socialist paradise is rock firm. Our party has decided to build a socialist paradise where the songs of creation and construction loudly resound and the people's happiness is in full bloom. This is accomplished by more solidly consolidating and developing our own unique socialism and by vigorously pushing ahead with revolutionary struggle and construction projects amid the great revolutionary upsurge of the nineties.

Today, when the party has made decisions and is carrying out great operations, functionaries should realize the party's intentions and more highly demonstrate the lofty party spirit and people-mindedness than ever before. Unless one tenaciously struggles by cherishing the lofty sense of service for the people, one cannot fulfill his responsibility and role of the revolutionary fighter of the party nor can one become the banner-holder in the great socialist onward movement.

From the outset, to love the people and to devotedly struggle for them, is a lofty outlook, which functionaries should deservedly cherish. All of our functionaries are from the ranks of the working people, including workers and peasants. They are the servants who have the mission of faithfully serving the people.

Nothing is more honorable and more rewarding for our functionaries, who came from the ranks of the people, than to actively contribute to the revolution and construction amid the respect and trust from the masses by loving the people and devotedly working for the people. All functionaries should think of the people before themselves and endlessly hold the people dear and care for them so that the people resolve to fight together to the end under any adverse situation.

Our people are good people who trust and follow only the party and the leader and who share their destiny with the party. The noble trait of our people, who entrusted everything to the party and who would fight disregarding water and fire if the party asks them to, is being vigorously demonstrated in the new general march. All of our working class and workers, including the mine workers who are faithfully and silently carrying out their assignments in deep underground mine galleries, are demonstrating the mass heroism and the spirit of matchless dedication in outposts and work sites of socialist construction.

No such people as our people, who uphold the party and the leader with revolutionary faith and principle and who are firmly united with them with single heart, can be found anywhere. Our functionaries should treasure such people to the maximum, should love the people more, and should boundlessly dedicate themselves to the people. Only by so doing, can the unity and cohesion between the party and the people be further consolidated and can a great turning point and miracles be effected on all fronts of socialist construction.

It is a lofty tradition of our party and temperament of the genuine functionary to devotedly serve the people. Our party attained an unbreakable blood unity with the masses even on the unprecedentedly arduous path, and the Korean revolution has traversed only along the ever-victorious road. The important key to this was that our functionaries faithfully served the people according to the consistent demand of the party. It is a precious truth proven by practice of our revolution that if functionaries are faithful to the people, both the party and the people will become mighty and powerful and the revolution will be victorious.

The devoted service of functionaries to the people means loyalty rendered to the party and the leader. The party and the leader represent the interests of the popular masses. They are political leaders of the popular masses. Thus, no one can think of the party and the leader as separate from the masses.

All lines and policies put forward by the party and the leader are the organizational will that comprehensively embraces the aspirations and demands of the people. The party's conception reflects the people's desire.

There can be no other purpose and activities of the party and the leader of the working class than protecting and realizing the people's demands and interests. Accordingly, only when one devotedly serves the people can one be truly loyal to the party and the leader and faithful to oneself. This is why our party elucidated on the unity of loyalty based on the principle of the chuche idea and stressed that those who are carrying out the revolution should be endlessly loyal to the party, to the leader, and to the masses, and should devotedly struggle for their people.

All of our functionaries, keenly realizing this principle, should further glorify the honor of the chuche-type revolutionaries and of the servants of the people who struggle by dedicating everything to the party, to the working class, and to the people. The priority work for functionaries in fulfilling their missions and duties as servants of the people is to firmly establish the correct outlook on the masses.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Political Bureau Presidium and secretary of the party Central Committee, has indicated: Functionaries should keenly realize that it is a most glorious and rewarding work for them to serve the people by cherishing the idea that the popular masses are the masters of the revolution.

Although their subworks and missions in the revolution are different from each other, functionaries and workers are equally the masters of the revolution and of the nation and are the revolutionary comrades who fight together under the same ideals. Needless to say, the functionaries hold the position of organizing and commanding the struggle to implement the party's policy.

However, the functionaries should serve the workers rather than the workers serve the functionaries. The functionaries have the mission of leading the struggle of the people according to the party's intent by respecting the people's demands and interests. They should serve the people by fulfilling such a mission.

It is the relationship forged between functionaries and people in the revolution and construction that the people give orders. The functionaries, in turn, should execute those orders and ensure the position and role of the workers as the masters. The complete revolutionary outlook on the masses cherished by our functionaries assumes the traits and positions of servants as its firm principle and temperament. That the functionaries think and work on the basis of the position and attitude of servants of the people is a way of leading a genuine life and of developing themselves by cherishing a collectivist outlook on life.

The relationship between the functionaries and the people is that between individuals and groups. When functionaries faithfully serve the people, their contribution to society and group will be even greater, and they can glorify their political lives amid the everlasting lives of social and political groups. In our country, neither the party nor the government is a bureaucratic organization that reigns over the popular masses. The party is the motherly party for the people and the government is a genuine government for the people themselves. Therefore, bureaucraticism cannot take place in our society.

No one can expect the spirit of genuine service for the people from the man who treats the masses lightly and who upholds himself higher than the masses. Such a man is destined to be separated from the masses.

All functionaries should fundamentally realize that they should always become the faithful servants of the people, no matter what posts they may hold, and should work and live by keenly realizing the intent of the party center who wishes them to do so. The trait of the functionary who fulfills the mission and duty of the servant of the people should be demonstrated through the thorough implementation of the party's lines and policies by displaying the high revolutionary spirit.

Our revolutionary struggle is a struggle to implement the party line and policy, and a warm love and consideration for the people is permeated in all of our party policies.

The functionaries must firmly adhere to our party line and policy, which clearly elucidates the direction and method for the people to lead a better life, and thoroughly implement it without a hitch. More immediately, great emphasis must be placed in making rapid progress in the economic construction and raising the standard of the people's living one step higher by upholding the decisions of the plenary session of the party Central Committee and by proving the worth of the already existing economic basis to its utmost.

The economic basis, which our people provided under the leadership of the party, is very powerful and if its potentiality is mobilized and utilized, we can increase production and lead a better life. The problem is for the functionaries, who have a tight grip on the driver's seat of the all-forward march guard posts, to highly manifest a revolutionary spirit and militant might so that they can fulfill their duties.

Since most of our functionaries grew up without any worries and hardships amidst the consideration of the party, they must consciously revolutionize themselves and enhance their revolutionary spirit, and must learn and embody the trait of fulfilling the party policy of the functionaries of the great chollima upswing period of the postwar days. If all of our functionaries work with the spirit, work habit, and method of that time, there is no obstacle or barrier that cannot be overcome and there is nothing that cannot be achieved.

Today's march forward to achieve a great upsurge in the socialist construction is a responsible struggle which once again reviews the loyalty of the functionaries. All functionaries must actively engage in the struggle to implement the decisions of the party, carry out the organizational political work aggressively, and conduct the work splendidly by mobilizing the upsurged enthusiasm and creative positiveness of the masses.

A spirit our functionaries must highly manifest today is to speculate, plan, and practice as if they were the masters from the position that they are wholly responsible for the work in their sector and unit and that they carry out all tasks put forward to the end without giving up halfway.

Production must be increased in all fields of the people's economy including the key industries, railway transportation, construction, light industry, and the rural economic field, and functionaries related to sectors and units that contribute to enhancing the people's lives must especially heighten their responsibility and role so that the drum beat of the great upsurge can be vigorously resounded in those fields.

The mettle of the revolutionary is to carry out to the end anything that he has pledged to the party to do unconditionally no matter what difficulties he may encounter. Whatever difficulties they may encounter, all functionaries should, with greater courage, open a way of advance at the head of the masses and solve the problems arising in economic work with the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and arduous struggle.

The ethos of the functionaries who carry out their mission and duty as faithful servants of the people is expressed by always going among the masses, living among them, and looking after them warmly. The faithful servants of the people should always share joy and sorrow among the masses and with the masses, think of the people first in whatever they do, and should be willing to give everything if it is in the interest of the

people. This is the principle in thinking and actions that should be strictly adhered to by our functionaries always and everywhere.

All functionaries should always go among the masses, stay with the workers, peasants, and technicians, eat with them, live with them, and work with them so as to solve their problems and requirements in a timely manner. The great leader taught, during the arduous anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, that the commanding officers should always be aware that their men could be cold and hungry not only when they themselves are cold and hungry but when they feel warm and satiated as well, adding that even this attitude may not be sufficient in fully appreciating their problems. This kind teaching is a guiding policy for our functionaries to cherish deep in their minds even today when all working people are enjoying happy material and cultural lives without worries and cares.

One who is not well aware of the people and is indifferent to the people's lives cannot be true commanding personnel. One who always lives with the masses closely and on good terms with them, is well aware of their demands and aspirations, and continuously thinks and makes continuous and energetic efforts to realize them is the true functionary who is truly faithful to the party and the leader and devotes himself to the people. The rewarding aspects of the life and struggle, great pride, and joy of our functionaries rest in sincerely working, exerting high devotion and the spirit of self-sacrifice being eager to serve the country and the people on the single road of the revolution led by the party rather than for the sake of any reward, honor, renown, or comfort, and devoting everything they have to looking after and helping the working people.

Our party's demand is that the functionaries should work more so as to give utmost benefit to the working people. The functionaries should earnestly and kindly look after the working people in the whole area of their political lives, labor lives, cultural lives, and private lives so that they can apply themselves to fulfilling their revolutionary tasks and lead their daily lives pleasantly and cheerfully.

The functionaries should go deep among the producers, smelt ores, oil, earth, use their brain for the working people, and effect continuous innovations and advances with overflowing ambitious spirit and passion so as to become the party's eternal companion and to vigorously lead the party members and working people along the road of loyalty.

Maintaining the revolutionary work method and the people-oriented work style is very important for the functionaries to fulfill their mission as faithful servants of the people. All functionaries should possess simple and unceremonious traits and should live thriftily, remain humble before the masses, and selflessly fulfill their duties without giving special treatment. They should be fair, just, and principle-minded at work, and be kind mothers to the working people in life who are always warm and generous.

Our functionaries are the commanding personnel of the revolution who became the party members determined to devote their lives to the revolution and to become the faithful servants of the people. Embodied in the slogan on all functionaries' becoming the faithful servants of the people are our party's great trust and expectations and infinite love and consideration for them. The functionaries should not forget the pledge they made on joining the party and become the resolute fighters and indomitable revolutionary fighters who faithfully serve the party, the revolution, the country, and the people every moment of their lives.

Because there is the great leadership of the glorious party, which takes responsibility for our country, people, and revolution and confidently leads them to a resplendent future, and because there are the faithful ranks of the cadres, who uphold the party's leadership, everything will always turn out fine in our country in the future as well. All our functionaries should further enhance their revolution-mindedness, party-mindedness, working class-mindedness, and people-mindedness and fulfill their duty as true faithful servants of the people so that they can solidify our single-minded unity as firm as a rock and further accelerate the general march for a revolutionary upswing.

NODONG SINMUN on Unity of People, Party

SK1303101690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0959 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 13 (KCNA)—"The party believes people and vice versa! This means our unity in one mind, source of our strength for all victories and secret of all victories," says NODONG SINMUN today in a political essay titled "Party Believes People and Vice Versa."

The political essay says our revolutionary ranks that are advancing in a single-hearted unity, the party believing in the people and the people believing in the party, are a powerful subject of history which remains invariable for ever in any circumstances and conditions.

Comparing the party and the people to the community of destiny, it points out:

If the party and the people forming a harmonious whole are the powerful subject of history, the party is a beacon brightly indicating the road ahead of the people and a faithful servant for the sake of the people, and the people is a powerful being on the road. A harmonious whole and single-hearted unity of the party and the people, this is the most brilliant looks of our party and people and our inexhaustible strength.

The political essay further says:

The party believes the people and vice versa!

The single-hearted unity is our eternal life and soul as well as our ever-victorious banner.

Without the party we cannot live and any brilliant success cannot be guaranteed. Only the party and the single-hearted unity of the party and the people can guarantee the shining destiny of the nation for good and all and pave a brilliant future.

Invincible is the revolutionary cause of our people united firm in one purpose and will around our great party that is creating everything our own way in a bold and big way and leading the Korean revolution to an ever-victorious road, upholding the banner of chuche in any circumstances and conditions, stresses the political essay.

Female Athlete Meets Brother Living in South

SK0903153090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1520 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 9 (KCNA)—People's sportswoman Han Pil-hwa, a member of the DPRK team staying in Japan to participate in the Second Asian Winter Games met at the Chitose Airport on March 8 her brother Han Pil-song, residing in Kyonggi Province, South Korea, 40 years after separation, according to a KNS report from Tokyo.

They were separated during the Korean war. Han Pil-hwa is well known to the world skating circles for her successful results at international games.

The brother and sister shed tears for a long while at the reunion. The husband of Han Pil-hwa and the wife of Han pil-song were present at the emotional scene.

The brother and sister appeared at a news conference arranged by the Organising Committee of the games that day and answered questions put by reporters.

Han Pil-hwa said that the problem of separated families and relatives in the North and the South is a problem of all of us and all the flesh and blood living separated in the North and the South of Korea should be let to meet each other, with the country reunified at the earliest date possible.

Stressing that the North and the South must go to the 11th Asian Games as a single team under all circumstances in conformity with the desire of the Korean nation for reunification, she expressed regret at the fact that there were people obstructing the formation of a single team.

She expressed the hope that the South side would respond to the resumption of the North-South sports talks.

Han Pil-song said that if another exchange of home-visiting groups were realized, he would go to meet his aged mother still alive.

Prior to their meeting, there was a contact between head of the DPRK team Pak Myong-chol, first vice-chairman of the State Sports Commission, and former Chairman of the South Korean Olympic Committee Kim Chong-ha.

At the contact they reached an agreement on leaving the hour and place of the reunion between the brother and sister to their own decision, allowing no conditions to be attached to it by a third party and ensuring an unaffected meeting in a family atmosphere.

During the Sapporo Winter Olympics in February 1972, they could not meet each other though they were quite near each other, due to obstructions by anti-reunification elements.

Merger of Three Parties in South Denounced

SK0903043190 (Clandestine) Voice of National Salvation in Korean to South Korea 0300 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Unattributed commentary: "Let Us Crush the United Pro-U.S. Conservative Forces Through the Great Unity of Democratic Patriotic Forces"]

[Text] The criminal political coup called the merger of three political parties, which was perpetrated according to a U.S. scenario, has driven today's situation in South Korea into a grave phase. The No Tae-u-Kim Yong-sam-Kim Chong-pil group turned the political situation away from a small ruling force and large opposition forces into a situation of a small opposition force and large ruling forces. This was accomplished through an unprecedented and extraordinarily strange collaboration between the fascist party and conservative opposition parties. These events have unfolded a new fascist reactionary era in this land.

The united pro-U.S. forces, which collaborated under the anti-independent, antidemocratic, and antireunification banner, have launched a wholesale scorched earth operation against nationalist and democratic forces. They have done so while advocating so-called democracy, prosperity, and reunification. Under the pretext of implementing democratization amid stability, they have drastically increased repressive police forces. Also, they have more viciously perpetrated the oppression of the people and nationalist and democratic forces—forces which pursue independence, democracy, and reunification. This has been accomplished by branding these forces as pro-communist, leftist forces that are attempting to overthrow the system.

The united pro-U.S. conservative forces have nullified their pledge to abolish the National Security Law and the National Security Planning Agency Act, which they put forward earlier, while babbling about a revision in a progressive manner, thus maintaining the fascist nature of these laws. They also carried out a wholesale roundup

of a number of people aspiring for independence, democracy, and reunification by charging them with the National Security Law.

Since the merger of the three parties, the maneuvers for reliance on outside forces and antireunification maneuvers of the united pro-U.S. conservative forces have become more undisguised. Frantically opposing the withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Korea, which was raised not only on this land but also within the United States, they begged for the continuous presence of the U.S. forces in South Korea. They unhesitatingly perpetrated nation-selling and the treacherous act by fully accepting the U.S. demand for opening markets in defiance of the unanimous opposition of all the people. Furthermore, they not only further incited the sense of confrontation with the North but also intentionally aggravated tension between the North and South by staging the adventurous "Team Spirit-90" war exercise. They are frantically running amok to implement in full-scale the northern policy which is designed for a two Koreas plot.

All facts show that the collaboration of the pro-U.S. conservative forces through the merger of the three parties was a great building of one-party dictatorship and reorganization of the system of confrontation between the North and South.

Because of the building of the reactionary united pro-U.S. forces by the No Tae-u-Kim Yong-sam-Kim Chong-pil group, the cause of our masses for independence, democracy, and reunification today is faced with a grave challenge. If our masses fail to expel the challenge of the reactionary pro-U.S. rightist forces, our cause for independence, democracy, and reunification, which has been inherited by crossing the hill of trials and breaking through the sea of blood and the sea of fire, will be blocked and another fascist dark age will open in this land.

Therefore, the most urgent task for our masses is to crush the pro-U.S. conservative alliance. This is our way out in the anti-U.S. struggle for independence, a breakthrough in the antifascist struggle for democratization, and a way to advance the fatherland reunification movement. All the masses should, without delay, rise up in the struggle to crush the pro-U.S. conservative alliance.

Today, the masses from all walks of life are waging a vigorous struggle and calling for disbanding the Democratic Liberation Party [DLP], the headquarters of the pro-U.S. conservative alliance. This is quite proper because it conforms to the urgent requirement of the current political situation. Most important in this cause of crushing the pro-U.S. conservative alliance is the great unity of the democratic patriotic forces. The struggle for independence, democracy, and reunification is the confrontation between the national democratic forces and their opposing forces—namely, the U.S. aggressive forces and the comprador military group.

In order for the national democratic forces to win this confrontation, all the classes and strata of people who aspire for national sovereignty, democratic civil rights, and national reunification should be united. Without unity, they cannot beat the pro-U.S. rightist reactionary forces. Furthermore, in the present difficult situation in which the pro-U.S. rightist reactionary group is waging an all-out offensive as a united force on the national democratic forces under the instigation of the White House and is frenziedly attempting to destroy the democratic patriotic camp by dividing and demolishing with all sorts of cunning mischief-making tactics, achieving grand unity of the democratic patriotic forces is a vital task. Therefore, all who are concerned over the present situation and the future of the country and the nation should join the combined front to crush the pro-U.S. rightist reactionary alliance.

However, we note that there is an undesirable situation being created in one corner of the democratic patriotic camp making it impossible to conform to this urgent demand of the present situation. Some ignore the demand of the people's will and of the present situation, and being bent on partisan interests and partisan strategy, they claim themselves to be a clean opposition party and an orthodox opposition party, thereby spending time contending for dominance among themselves. Some—the forces that should be united and achieve cooperation between them—mention the limitations and the shortcomings of the other side, break faith with the other side, and part from them. This is a very undesirable act.

At this time, when we need as many people as possible for the cause of crushing the pro-U.S. rightist reactionary alliance, they engage in argument, bent on partisan interests and assertions, and they expose the others' shortcomings. This is an act that hurts the unity of the democratic patriotic forces. This act should be denounced and should be overcome as soon as possible. There should never be personal interest in the cause of achieving unity for independence, democracy, and reunification, nor is any partisan interests or partisan strategy permissible. The criterion for unity is whether one is for or against the pro-U.S. rightist reactionary alliance, whether he is for or against the one-party dictatorship of the DLP, and whether he wants independence, democracy, and reunification. If a party which is firmly based on this criterion, opposes the pro-U.S. rightist reactionary alliance, opposes the one-party dictatorship of the DLP, and aspires for independence, democracy, and reunification, even if this party is not radical enough or strong enough, we should join our hands with them.

It is very desirable that today the dissident organizations, including the Chonminnyon [National Democratic Alliance of Korea] and Chondaehyop [National Council of University Student Representatives], organized united forces to crush the DLP's long-term power plot, are gathering the masses from all walks of life into them and that the students are (?actively joining) the

pan-democratic united front to crush the conservative alliance forces and are waging a struggle to realize it. All the democratic patriotic forces should without delay participate in the united democratic front to crush the pro-U.S. rightist reactionary alliance of the No Tae-u-Kim Yong-sam-Kim Chong-pil ring, transcending all differences, including the difference in political view, wherever they belong.

All political parties and organizations that aspire for democratic political development should not waste time discussing [word indistinct] but should join the united democratic front in conformity with the demand of the current situation. Participating in the DLP is an act of treachery challenging the will of the people, and an act of digging one's own grave as a politician. All politicians who highly value political life and wish to speak for the will of the people should resolutely reject participating in the DLP and join the pan-democratic united front. The unity of the democratic patriotic forces is solidified in the active joint concerted struggle. The joint concerted struggle (?can be realized) when the slogans are the same and unity is achieved in action. When the struggle is waged together with these slogans and unity is achieved in action, mutual understanding and comradeship are promoted between forces, thereby realizing true unity.

Therefore, the democratic and patriotic forces from all walks of life must unite as a single united front. They must call together the anticonservative, all-out alliance struggle slogan, including the disorganization of the DLP and the frustration of the pro-U.S. reactionary alliance, so that various forms of struggle including the signature campaign, mass rallies, and demonstrations can be carried out to deal a strong blow to the No Tae-u-Kim Yong-sam-Kim Chong-pil ring. This blow must be dealt with united strength and work. In this way, it can achieve a strong and united relationship among the democratic and patriotic forces.

The establishment of the pro-U.S. reactionary alliance by the United States is a product of the danger of the colonial fascist system and is nothing but a revilement by those in their death beds. The alliance of those who betray [word indistinct] and which goes against the trend of the time cannot be strong and cannot be maintained long. Whatever reactionary alliance cannot prevent the rapid flow of the democratic and patriotic forces who are united as one.

All the masses should unite as one in the pan-democratic united front and overthrow the reactionary group of the despicable No Tae-u-Kim Yong-sam-Kim Chong-pil pro-U.S. reactionary group and push on altogether so that the restoration of democracy and the new day of an independent reunification can be achieved ahead of schedule on this land.

ROK Soldiers Urged To Destroy Concrete Wall

SK1103111790 (Clandestine) Voice of National Salvation in Korean to South Korea 0300 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Unattributed talk from the "Hour for Officers and Men of the South Korean Armed Forces" program]

[Text] As you, the officers and men of the South Korean Armed Forces, know very well, the concrete wall is an antinational barrier of division built by the dictator Pak Chong-hui Yusin to perpetuate the nation's division. It was built to actively follow the two Koreas policy of the United States.

The dictator Pak Chong-hui Yusin built the concrete wall, extending it over 600-ri from the East to the West along the armistice line. He built the wall while attempting to realize his ambition for permanent power through the two Koreas plot. He carried out this plot according to U.S. policy in the Korean peninsula.

This wall blocked the rivers on this land, which have flowed in a vast expanse for several thousand years. It divided our land, which extends from Mt. Paektu to the South. Indeed, this is a symbol of the nation's division designed to permanently divide everything on the Korean peninsula into the North and the South, even the silent birds.

When the 4 July North-South joint statement was made public, and the spirit for achieving the peaceful reunification of the nation according to the three-point principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity was unprecedentedly enhanced among our masses, the United States and the dictatorial Yusin group—embarrassed by this—built the concrete wall for a permanent division of the nation and for blocking the masses' aspirations for reunification. This is a fact known by the entire world.

We believe, informed by word of mouth by your superiors and by hundreds of thousands of soldiers and workers who were mobilized in the construction of the concrete wall, that you are well aware that this concrete wall is a symbol of the nation's division and a fortress of anticommunist confrontation. The concrete wall, built over several years by mobilizing an enormous quantity of materials, funds, labor power and equipment, is a disgraceful thing unseen in any age and in any country of the world. It has become the target of unanimous denunciation by our masses—who aspire to a peaceful reunification of the nation, and the progressive masses of the world who aspire to independence and peace.

You officers and men of the armed forces should realize that as long as the concrete wall, the symbol of the nation's division and North-South confrontation—and a disgrace to our people—is left intact, openness, free travel and reunification will merely be empty words, no matter how noisily one may talk about them. Nevertheless, the No Tae-u regime stubbornly insists that there is no concrete wall, even as the North put forward a new

reunification proposal for realizing free travel and extensive openness between the North and the South by destroying the concrete wall built along 600-ri long armistice line.

Officers and men of the armed forces: We believe that you, more than anyone else, are more aware of the concrete wall built near the iron fence in the South area of the armistice line. In particular, those who serve in the foremost frontlines, including officers and men of the 2nd Army Division and [word indistinct], may witness the concrete wall, which is 5 to 8 meters high, 3 to 7 meters wide in its upper part, and 10 to 19 meters wide in its bottom.

Despite such an enormous concrete wall extending over all areas of the armistice line, the No Tae-u group stubbornly insists that there is no concrete wall. The shameless remarks of the No Tae-u group clearly show that it is a group of pro-U.S. flunkeyists who are attempting to hand over this land to the United States as its permanent colony.

Officers and men of the South Korean Armed Forces: The No Tae-u group's preposterous remarks that there is no concrete wall show its true intentions. The No Tae-u group intends to continuously adhere to the antinational policy of division—a policy that blocks the peaceful runification of the nation while maneuvering to permanently keep the concrete wall, a symbol of the nation's division and North-South confrontation. You officers and men of the armed forces, a majority of whom are the sons and brothers of the working masses, should respond to the aspirations of your parents and brothers at home for peace and the peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula. You should broadly expose the true aspect of the concrete wall that is built along the 600-ri armistice line, proving it is a barrier of division designed to permanently divide our country. You should courageously rise in the struggle to destroy it.

The exposure of the truth by you, officers and men of the army who personally see the concrete wall every day, will easily convince the people. You, officers and men of the army, should always bear in mind that the guarding of the concrete wall itself signifies the disgraceful path of becoming guards for the No Tae-u group—the splittists and colonial puppets of the United States.

Today, your parents and brothers in their hometowns and our masses actively support the proposal of the North to open a new chapter in national reunification by destroying the concrete wall—a symbol of national division and the North-South confrontation which you are guarding—and by realizing free travel and full-scale openness. Therefore you, officers and men of the armed forces, should courageously join the struggle of your parents and brothers in the hometowns along with our masses for peaceful reunification, instead of guarding the concrete wall—the fortress of anticommunist confrontation. You should be keenly aware that whether or not you, the officers and men of the armed forces, admit the real existence of the concrete wall, and whether you guard this wall or not is the very way of distinguishing reunification from division, and patriotism from selling out the nation.

SKNDF Sends Message to Syrian Party

SK0903040790 (Clandestine) Voice of National Salvation in Korean to South Korea 0300 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Congratulatory message sent by the Central Committee of the South Korea National Democratic Front, SKNDF, to the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Syrian people on the occasion of the 27th anniversary of Syria's 8 March revolution]

[Text] Damascus:

To the Central Committee of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party:

The Central Committee of the SKNDF sends its warmest congratulations and militant greetings to the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Syrian people on the occasion of the 27th anniversary of the 8 March revolution in Syria.

After the victory of the revolution, the Syrian people, under the correct leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, achieved great progress in the struggle to construct an independent and prosperous new society.

We send firm solidarity to your struggle to eliminate the continued aggressive maneuvers of the imperialists and the Zionists, to accelerate the socialist construction, and to achieve solid peace in the Middle and Near East region.

We truly hope that through this opportunity new results can be achieved in your work to regain the occupied Arab territory and accomplish the nation's progressive development. Also, we hope that the magnificent friendly and cooperative relationship between our two parties will further strengthen and develop.

[Signed] The Central Committee of the SKNDF
[Dated] 8 March 1990, Seoul

South Korea

Report Says North Hoping for Gains From South

SK1203110290 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 12 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] North Korea, it was reported on 12 March, hopes for economic aid from South Korea [namhan] and, in particular, South Korea's participation in the development of Mt. Kumgang. North Korea is also reported to be considering a proposal for North-South summit talks when Kim Chong-il's succession to his father is instituted, if South Korea recognizes it.

This was disclosed by a Korean residing in the U.S. who specializes in North Korean affairs, in a report submitted to the government on the results of his interview with Han Si-hae. The specialist went to North Korea on 18 February and stayed there until 25 February. He met with Han Si-hae, deputy director of the International Department of the Workers' Party of Korea, exchanging views with him on North-South summit talks, the development of Mt. Kumgang, North-South dialogue, North Korea's opening, and issues related to reunification of the Korean peninsula.

This North Korean specialist, who wished to remain anonymous, is reported to have briefed Minister Yi Hong-ku of the National Unification Board and the Chongwadae staff on the results of his visit to North Korea.

Our attention has been attracted to his meeting with Deputy Director Han Si-hae, who is known to be the person actually in charge of policies toward the South, as well as the party conducting secret contacts with Pak Chol-on, South Korea's first minister of state for political affairs. Coupled with the fact that he heard Han explain North Korea's latest stand on a whole range of questions concerning the Korean peninsula, this meeting interests us because it took place at a time when North Korea has completely suspended all forms of North-South dialogue. It also occurred at a time when North Korea is reported to be controlling the entry of foreigners into North Korea.

According to his report, Han commented on the proposal for North-South summit talks, saying that "since the South side is not independent in its attitude and is expected to play the role of a U.S. lackey, we do not find it necessary to have such a summit at the moment." These remarks make it clear that North Korea is not responsive to President No Tae-u's proposal for North-South summit talks. He is also quoted as saying that "conditions for such meetings will arise only when the South side makes political and economic concessions."

In his commentary on remarks by Han, this North Korean specialist added: "Although he was vague in his comments, I took Han Si-hae's reference to a political concession to mean the South side's recognition of Kim Chong-il's succession to his father's power and the South side's response to the North side's proposal for a North-South summit meeting—a meeting in which Kim Chong-il would be the party to talk with. By an economic concession, he seemed to refer to some sort of secret economic aid from the South."

In the report, Han is said to have complained about the projected joint development of Mt. Kumgang, saying: "We are ready to start developing Mt. Kumgang at any time. We wonder why the South side remains silent about it even after Hyundai Group's Honorary Chairman Chong Chu-yong signed an agreement on it during his visit to the North."

"Judging from this," the report said, "it seems that North Korea hopes for economic aid from South Korea as long as the South does not make the North lose face. It also seems to voice a desire for starting the joint development of Mt. Kumgang, a project President No proposed in his New Year's press conference, at the earliest possible date."

Mentioning North Korea's having suspended the North-South dialogue under the pretext of the "Team Spirit" exercise, Han is reported to have explained that "this was because a North-South dialogue—which is for peace—and war exercises are incompatible." Han also is quoted in the report as having expressed his optimism about the resumption of a North-South dialogue by saying: "However, North-South negotiations can be resumed when the "Team Spirit" exercise is concluded."

In addition, Han is reported to have talked about such issues as the liberation of South Korea [namchoson]. He is quoted as saying that "the liberation of South Korea can be realized when it is liberated from outside forces and freed from monopoly capitalists. Basically, this is a task that the South Korean people will have to fulfill on their own. Students and working people can be one of the factors that contribute to a revolution, but not a decisive factor." Thus, he has revealed that North Korea still has not abandoned its hope for a South Korean [namchoson] revolution.

In the meantime, regarding what this report said as an indication of North Korea's change in its policy toward the South following Kim Chong-il's succession to his father, including a proposal for a summit meeting between Kim Chong-il and President No, the government is reported to be figuring out a strategy to counter these moves by the North side.

Details of Report Released

SK1203121390 Seoul YONHAP in English 1112 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] Seoul, March 12 (YONHAP)—North Korea may accept South Korea's proposal for an inter-Korean summit after Kim Chong-il, heir-apparent son of aging North Korean leader Kim Il-song, suceeds the elder Kim, according to a report filed recently by a U.S.-based Korean professor on his recent trip to North Korea. North Korea is also hoping for Seoul's tacit economic aid and an early implementation of joint development of Mt. Kumgang in the North as South Korean President No Tae-u has pronounced during a press conference earlier this year.

The report was drawn up by Prof. Kim Hyong-chan of Western Washington University, Bellingham, Washington, based on his interview with Han Si-hae, deputy director of International Department of North Korea's Workers' Party, and submitted to the South Korean Government. Kim toured North Korea Feb. 11-25 and

met with National Unification Minister Yi Hong-ku and other ranking Korean officials in Seoul after the North Korean trip.

According to the report, Han was negative to the Seoul-proposed No-Kim summit meeting for now, saying "North Korea feels it not necessary at present to meet with the South because the South would act merely as an instrument of the United States at the summit."

But Han reportedly said, "A chance for the meeting will develop in the future and it would be created by the South's political and economic concessions."

The professor said, "The political concession seemed to mean South Korea's recognition of the hereditary transfer of power in the North and acceptance of the North's possible proposal for a summit with Chong-il as South Korean leader's counterpart."

"The economic concession Han referred to seemed to mean the South's economic support for the North without being exposed to the outside," the report said.

The report said Han expressed a complaint about the delayed joint development of Mt. Kumgang. It quoted Han as saying, "We are prepared to start at any moment but we do not know why there is no message from the South despite that Chong Chu-yong, honorary chairman of (South Korea's) Hyundai Business Group, signed a contract for the joint venture when he visited the North last year."

The South Korean tycoon agreed to set down to a few joint ventures, including the development of the scenic mountain into an international resort area, when he visited the North last year under the government's permission.

Regarding the North's step to halt all channels of official inter-Korean dialogue, Han said, "Inter-Korean dialogue for peace and war games can not be compatible but the dialogue would be resumed if the military drill ends."

North Korea suspended all talks with the South recently in protest of the South Korean-U.S. annual military drill which is now under way.

The South Korean Government is reviewing the report in the viewpoint that it could hint a possible change in North Korea and help Seoul's preparations for the change, according to an official. Han served as North Korean mission chief to the United Nations and is reportedly an official in charge of Pyongyang's policy toward the South.

Talks With Kim Chong-il Called 'Inconceivable'

SK1203114090 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean 1000 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] The government has made it clear that there is no change in its policy of promoting North-South summit talks with President No Tae-u and North Korea's Kim Il-song, but that at present talks with successors to Kim Il-song—including Kim Chong-il—are inconceivable.

A high-ranking official of the Ministry of National Unification has stated that a new Supreme People's Assembly of North Korea is to be formed on 22 April, but that the government has no information or material indicating that Kim Chong-il will be an heir to Kim Il-song.

He has added that under these circumstances, there is no change in the policy of promoting summit talks between the president and Kim Il-song, and that summit talks with Kim Chong-il have not yet been taken into consideration.

He said: On 2 March, Kim (?Yong-chan), professor of Washington University in the United States, visited Unification Minister Yi Hong-ku and explained the results of his visit to North Korea last month. However, there was no reference to North-South summit talks. Professor Kim explained that it is difficult to hold a North-South dialogue during the "Team Spirit" exercise and that in particular, the North Korean side strongly demanded the withdrawal of the U.S. troops. There was no change in its fundamental attitude.

South Proposes 'Nuclear Hotline' to North

SK1203140090 Seoul Television Service in Korean 1200 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] [Anchorman Pak Song-pom] The government today proposed to the North side that the North and South establish a hotline to help each other in preventing a nuclear reactor accident. The proposal was made public at the International Conference for Nuclear Cooperation in Asia.

At the First International Conference for Nuclear Cooperation in Asia held today in Tokyo, Yi Sang-hui, minister of science and technology, called on North Korea to sign an agreement on the nuclear safeguards system.

Correspondent Yi Chun-pal in Tokyo has a report:

[Begin Correspondent Yi Chun-pal recording] In his keynote speech at today's conference, Minister of Science and Technology Yi Sang-hui, calling on North Korea to sign the Nuclear Safeguards Agreement, said that South Korea, in order to play a major role since it was ranked 10th among those having nuclear power generators, was proposing the establishment of a standing community for nuclear cooperation among the nations of Asia.

Minister Yi particularly stressed the fact that the basis of our country's nuclear policy is to ensure safety domestically and the peaceful use of nuclear energy externally. He then emphasized the importance of unity between Korea and Japan in organizing a nuclear techno-belt in the Northeast Asian region. Minister Yi also proposed

that, toward this end, Korea and Japan establish a nuclear hotline to prepare for various kinds of nuclear accidents.

The proposal for establishing a consultative body for nuclear cooperation put forward by Minister Yi at today's conference means that our country has transformed itself into a country that helps other Asian countries with nuclear technology, this from a state that has received nuclear technology over the past 30 years. About 300 officials in charge of nuclear affairs and scholars from eight Asian countries, including our country and Japan, attended today's conference. [end recording]

North Asked To Use Nuclear Energy Peacefully

SK1003090290 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 7 Mar 90 p 2

[Editorial: "North Korea's Nuclear Development Is Dangerous"]

[Text] The eyes of the world have been focused on North Korea because of its nuclear development capability. We too, cannot help but be anxious about and be worried over the North's nuclear capability. Because of the belief that North Korea may be manufacturing nuclear bombs by using nuclear fuel left over at nuclear power plants, a meeting of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which was held in Vienna last month, advised North Korea that it should "sign the Full-Scale Safety Measure Agreement by June." This means that it was confirmed internationally that North Korea has a nuclear development capability.

It was confirmed long ago that North Korea had this capability. In his testimony to Congress, U.S. Secretary of Defense Cheney warned that North Korea's plan for nuclear development threatens security in East Asia. Also, Soviet Minister of Foreign Affairs Shevardnadze said last February that North Korea, which has pursued nuclear development, would be able to manufacture nuclear weapons sometime in the future. The International Affairs Institute, a prestigious French institute, and JANE'S WEEKLY, a British military affairs magazine, stated that North Korea has, no doubt, pursued nuclear development for military purposes. This means that North Korea may attack South Korea using nuclear or gas weapons.

However, North Korea has denied its development of nuclear weapons, and has refused the IAEA's inspection of its nuclear facilities. North Korea signed the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in December 1985. Nevertheless, it has refused to sign the Safety Measure Agreement, which is necessary for an on-the-spot inspection. This refusal has come even though the treaty stipulates that the agreement must be signed. In turn, North Korea has been criticized internationally.

If it has nothing to be afraid of as far as the nuclear issue is concerned, instead of turning a deaf ear to international warnings and denunciation, North Korea must make public its facilities—facilities which have put the countries concerned on their guard and have worried them—and must fulfill its duty for peace by accepting an international inspection.

North Korea fixed a national division by provoking a war between fellow countrymen 40 years ago. Even today, while adhering to the outdated theory of carrying out an armed communist revolution, North Korea is plotting to provoke another war. This is has been proven by the presence of a fourth underground tunnel, which was discovered inside the truce line a few days ago.

It is truly horrible that North Korea, which has kept itself secluded and enclosed, may possess nuclear weapons. This may plunge the Korean peninsula, Northeast Asia, Asia, the Pacific, and the world in general into the horror of a nuclear war. If made ill use of—for destructive purposes in war—nuclear energy will annihilate all of mankind because of its formidable power. Nuclear energy is not like powder for a toy gun, but the greatest horror in the history of mankind. It is intolerable for a group that is digging underground tunnels or kicking up other war maneuvers, to possesses weapons manufactured using this formidable nuclear power. Because of this horrific power, countries of the world have kept watch on even each other or held each other in check even when they use nuclear energy peacefully.

As part of our effort to carry out a northern diplomacy, our government decided to import enriched uranium—fuel for nuclear power plants—from the Soviet Union this year. This was possible because our determination to peacefully use nuclear energy and our perfect safety measures are internationally recognized. Because it was confirmed that North Korea has pursued nuclear development, we hope it would not use nuclear energy in war, but only for peaceful purposes. North Korea must sign the safety agreement with the IAEA before demanding that the Korean peninsula become nuclear-free.

Report on Discontinued PRC Contacts Denied

SK1203115790 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 12 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] On 12 March, a Foreign Ministry official involved with improving relations with China said: "Negotiations are under way between the governments of the two countries regarding the establishment of consular ties and the issue of opening trade missions. Some foreign news reports that say that negotiations between the two countries are bankrupt are far from true."

The ministry official explained: "Our government hopes to send a consular delegation to Beijing, together with the athletic team, observer team, and art troupe we expect to send to the Beijing Asian Games. If our plan to send a consular delegation to China is not accepted by the Chinese because of their circumstances, we will

attempt various ways of carrying out consular functions by sending a permanent liaison officer to Beijing or by opening our trade mission there."

Seoul, Beijing Ready To Resume Talks on Ties

SK1303080090 Seoul YONHAP in English 0745 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Seoul, March 13 (YONHAP)—South Korea and China are to resume negotiations on exchanging trade offices, the vernacular CHUNGANG DAILY NEWS reported in its Tuesday editions, quoting a "highly-placed government source."

"Government officials of the two nations have identical views that it is time to resume the talks on establishment of trade offices," the official was quoted as saying. "In particular, the Chinese side is taking the attitude that it has almost solved the problems caused by the military crackdown on the Tiananmen Square pro-democracy protests."

Korea and China had two rounds of contacts, in March and May last year, to discuss an exchange of trade offices that would also have consular functions. The talks were suspended in the wake of the bloody Tiananmen Square incident in June, the newspaper said.

The afternoon paper quoted the official as saying, "China will notify North Korea of its direction toward an exchange of trade offices between China and South Korea through Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, who is to visit Pyongyang this month."

A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry declined to comment on the report.

Last Year's Exports to China Off 18 Percent

SK1303011090 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 13 Mar 90 p 9

[Text] Korea's indirect with China via Hong Kong dropped last year for the first time since 1982, hit by the Beijing government's austerity program and the bloody suppression of pro-democracy movement in June, the Korea Trade Promotion Corp. [KOTRA] said yesterday.

KOTRA, quoting statistics released by the Hong Kong government, said Korea's exports to China via Hong Kong in 1989 fell 18 percent to $1 billion from the previous year while indirect imports from the Communist giant totaled $909 million, up 0.8 percent. As a result, the two-way trade between Korea and China last year fell 8 percent to $1,909 million from a year ago, the first drop since 1982, the state-run company said.

Seoul's trade with Beijing, directly and indirectly, has been on a sharp rise in recent years in keeping with the Korean government's strong offensive to improve relations with socialist countries. Korean enterprises suffered the lowest export drops in TV picture tubes (45.2 percent), radio components (60.0 percent) and polyester fabrics (39.3 percent). Due to accumulated stocks of those items, Korea's relevant industries went through a severe slump last year.

In sharp contrast, Korean imports of Chinese textiles, particularly silk fabrics and raw silks, showed a steady growth in 1989. Korean imports of silk fabrics and silks rose 11.2 percent and 12.7 percent, respectively, last year from 1988.

Meanwhile, the two-way trade between the two countries, including direct trade, totaled $3,135 million last year, up 87 percent from 1987, but only 1.8 percent from 1988. Korea's direct and indirect exports to China amounted to $1.4 billion, down 15.3 percent from 1988, while imports from the country climbed 22.3 percent to $1,695 million.

KOTRA officials say Korean exports to China will also face trouble this year due to the Chinese government's continued retrenchment polices.

Security Equipment Loaned to China for Games

SK1303023290 Seoul YONHAP in English 0158 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Seoul, March 13 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea will lend China the security equipment from the 1988 Olympics and the 1986 Asian Games for use during the Beijing Asian Games in September, a government source said Tuesday. South Korea and China have already agreed on the details of the loan of the equipment for the games, the source said.

The loan was requested by the Chinese Government during talks on mutual cooperation for the Beijing Asian Games, according to the source. The Korean equipment includes bomb detectors, portable metal detectors, X-ray machines, vehicle inspection mirrors and mine detectors.

A week ago, a team from the Beijing Asian Games Organizing Committee (BAGOC) visited Seoul to discuss accommodation, transportation and security for Korean athletes and team officials, another government source said. In a follow-up, a Korean Government delegation will visit China in mid-march to discuss matters regarding both the games and relations between the two countries, which have no diplomatic ties, the source said.

Foreign Minister Meets U.S. Envoy in Beijing

SK1203123690 Seoul YONHAP in English 1226 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] Seoul, March 12 (YONHAP)—South Korean Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung made a stopover at Beijing Airport and met U.S. Ambassador to China James Lilley on Monday [12 March], Foreign Ministry officials said.

Choe met Lilley at a VIP room at the airport during an 80 minute-long stopover on his way to Pakistan and

discussed matters of common concern, including relations between South Korea and China. Choe expressed his hope that the United States support South Korea's effort to normalize the relations between Seoul and Beijing in the near future. Lilley pledged to do his best to support the effort, the officials said.

Choe left Seoul Sunday to make official visits to Pakistan, India, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria.

Ambassador Discusses Status of Koreans in Japan

SK0503101390 Seoul YONHAP in English 0948 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] Seoul, March 5 (YONHAP)—The South Korean ambassador to Japan said Monday that an improvement in the legal status of third and subsequent generations of Koreans born in Japan can be settled satisfactorily as the Japanese Government agrees the problem is the product of the historic relations of the two countries.

The matter is one of the biggest diplomatic issues pending between the two countries. Seoul contends the Koreans should be given permanent resident status automatically at birth because their ancestors were taken forcibly to Japan during Japan's colonial rule of Korea 1910-1945.

Yi Won-kyong said in a news conference that the matter will take a long time to resolve because it is not for third-generation Koreans only but for all Koreans resident in Japan and is related with Japanese laws. Yi said the government will make steady efforts to resolve the problems.

The ambassador, in Seoul to attend a conference of overseas diplomatic mission chiefs, said that President No Tae-u's visit to Japan will contribute greatly to resolving the matter. On linking No's visit to settlement of the third-generation problem, Yi said the two governments have not had any talks on the schedule for No's trip. The enhancement of the legal status of third-generation Koreans has been a precondition for the Korean president's visit, which had been postponed twice in 1989 due to Japan's internal situation.

The 1965 treaty that normalized relations between the two countries guaranteed the rights of first- and second-generation Koreans to live as permanent residents in Japan, but failed to protect the rights of their children and succeeding generations. Korea insists that third-generation Koreans be automatically given permanent resident status and no longer be fingerprinted, while Tokyo sticks to its long-held position that it cannot give them preferential treatment over other foreign nationals.

A requirement that all foreign nationals over 16 years old provide fingerprints for their alien registration certificates to be carried out at all times had provoked protests from Koreans born and raised in Japan. Only criminal suspects among Japanese are required to give fingerprints. The 677,000 Koreans in Japan comprise 70 percent of the foreign population.

Concerning Tokyo's attitude toward Seoul's northern diplomacy, the ambassador said Japan basically expresses its understanding and support of Korea's northern diplomacy although it is wary of Korea's making inroads into the Soviet Union and China lest it conflict with Japan economically. Yi said Japan intends to increase contacts with North Korea in line with the growing contacts between South Korea and communist countries but that it is at an "inquiring stage."

No's Visit to Japan Viewed as 'Not Timely'

SK1303010290 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 13 Mar 90 p 2

[News analysis by staff reporter Kim Hye-won: "No's Plan To Visit Japan May Be Realized Before Summer"]

[Text] President No Tae-u's planned visit to Tokyo, which was suspended twice—once for the illness of the late Emp. Hirohito and another for complicated political situations in Japan—is likely to be realized at last before this summer. The government has not formally announced the plan but many signs in and out of the country strongly hint at the possibility.

If realized, No's Tokyo visit will surely symbolize the smooth relations of Korea with its traditional allies, balancing the government's foreign policy emphasis on improving relations with socialist countries.

Emerging simultaneously with the President's planned trip to Japan is the issue of the legal status of the descendents of Korean residents in that country. The issue has been suddenly brought into focus since No revealed early last month his intention to shelve the plan of his visit when the issue is found impossible to be resolved before the trip.

No was quoted as telling the officials that the negotiations on the legal status of the descendents of Koreans who were forcibly taken to Japan during World War II should be completed as soon as possible in order to liquidate the unfortunate past involving the two countries.

"I want my Tokyo visit to serve for the conclusion of the issue," the President was further quoted.

The Foreign Ministry formed a task force soon after, with working-level officials including its director-general for Asian affairs, to advance the conclusion of the negotiations with the Japanese. The thorny issue which has been pending between the two countries since 1965, accordingly, began to be given media spotlight. But what seems to be missed in their discussions was that the unfortunate past involving Korea and Japan cannot be completely liquidated by settling the issue of the Koreans in Japan and that therefore, President No's planned Tokyo visit, if realized, should serve for more than that.

There are also views that too much emphasis being given to the issue may be little the other important issues that should be considered. Critics generally share the view that the President's plan to visit Japan this spring is not timely to serve its original purpose. They say his visit was planned as a symbolic gesture of good-will relations between the two neighboring countries according to a usual custom of Korean Presidents to have summits with leaders of the two strongest allies—the United States and Japan—soon after their inauguration. But the meaning has already been lost when the visit was suspended twice.

The critics also point out that the government missed the point in No's Tokyo visit by stressing the issue of third-generation Koreans when the two countries are required closer consultations on political situations in East Asia than ever before.

Many people expect that the wind of reforms now sweeping the East European countries will affect Asia soon. Korea and Japan, two major actors, are therefore needed to seek ways to cope with the dramatic changes. The fact that relations between north Korea and Japan are the most important issue in forthcoming political changes in East Asia adds significance to such a coordination between Seoul and Tokyo. The two countries are also required to review their economic relations, the critics say. Korea has suffered chronic trade deficits with Japan.

The voices calling for measures to correct the trade imbalance are now ever high as Korea is increasingly pressured to open its market by Western countries, especially the United States, to reduce Korea's trade surplus with them. There are also concerns over the possible confrontations between Korean and Japanese businesses in exploiting the newly opened markets of socialist countries. It is the time for the two countries to seek ways to utilize the new opportunities to their mutual interests, they say.

Even the critics, however, agree that the expression of special interest in the issue of the legal status of Korean descendents in Japan by the President will contribute to early conclusion of the issue. But they cast doubt on the extent of influence of his concern over the long fight of the Koreans in Japan to remove various discriminative practices against them and to obtain political rights.

No Expected To Conduct Cabinet Reshuffle

SK1203032190 Seoul YONHAP in English 0304 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] Seoul, March 12 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u is expected to effect a sweeping Cabinet reshuffle this weekend or early next week, shortly after the current special National Assembly session ends, a ruling party source said Monday [12 March].

Most likely to be dropped are Deputy Prime Minister Cho Sun, who is also economic planning minister, most other economic ministers and the home, justice and sports ministers, the source said. No may also replace his senior secretaries, including Chief Presidential Secretary Hong Song-chol, said the source, who declined to be identified.

"President No may feel it is necessary to revamp the Cabinet and his secretariat to effectively cope with changes brought by the creation of the new ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) and stave off economic difficulties," the source said.

The reshuffle is expected around March 19 and six to seven DLP lawmakers may be given Cabinet posts, the source said. Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun is likely to be retained, the source said, but another source said he could not rule out the possibility that No will replace the premier "to refresh the atmosphere."

No will meet with Kim Yong-sam and Kim Chong-pil, his co-leaders in the DLP, and Pak Tae-chun, acting co-leader, Monday afternoon to discuss the shakeup, the first source said.

Among the favorites for deputy premier is Yi Sung-yun, a former finance minister and chief policy-maker of the old ruling party, and Kim Chong-in, the minister for health and social affairs, the source said. Lawmakers in the running for Cabinet posts include Yi Han-tong, Yi Tae-sop and Chong Tong-sung from the old ruling party, Choe Hyong-u and Kim Tong-kyu from Kim Yong-sam's opposition party and Yi Hui-il and Choe Kak-kyu from Kim Chong-pil's old party.

No Honors Outgoing Pakistani Ambassador

SK0803013890 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 8 Mar 90 p 2

[Text] President No Tae-u yesterday conferred the Order of Diplomatic Service Merit Kwanghwa Medal on outgoing Pakistani Ambassador to Korea Shamshad Ahmad when the latter visited Chongwadae yesterday.

Earlier in the day, No gave letters of appointment and credentials to six newly appointed Korean ambassadors—Choe Pil-ip to Libya, Hong Sun-yong to Malaysia, Kwon Tong-man to the European Community, Pak Nam-kyun to Greece, Yi Chae-chun to Bangladesh and Paek Yong-ki to Fiji.

Defense Command Bill Passes; PPD Objects

SK1303013490 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 13 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] The ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] yesterday snapped through the Defense Committee a law bill for unifying the command of the three armed services. The opposition Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] declared the passage null and void, arguing the lack of steps required for the passage without pro-con debate.

It is the first "snap" passage by the governing party since it was created through the merger of the former ruling and two opposition parties on Jan. 22. The DLP controls 217 out of 299 seats.

After hearing Rep. Yi Kwang-no explain the analytical reports on the contents of the controversial bill, committee chairman Yu Hak-song asked the panel members if they had any objections. Giving them no time to voice their opposition Yu tried to declare the passage of the bill. Taken by surprise, opposition lawmakers rushed to the chairman and snatched the gavel from Yu. But, chairman Yu hurriedly rapped the table with his hand declared that the bill was passed.

The government originally sought to install a "national defense chief of staff" with the same power but decided to strengthen the function and power the existing joint chiefs of staff because of strong objections by the PPD.

Under the bill, which will become law upon passage through the plenary session, the capital garrison command and the special warfare unit are placed under the command of the Army chief of staff as they are now. According to the bill, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff will have four deputy chairmen under him.

Dissident Group's Advisers Resign To Form Party

SK1303012890 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 13 Mar 90 p 2

[Text] Kye Hun-che and three other leading dissidents yesterday resigned as advisors of "Chonminnyon," or the National Alliance for Democratic Movement, to found a progressive political party. The three others resigning were Paek Ki-wan, who dropped out midway in the 1987 presidential election, Rev. Pak Hyong-kyu and Mrs. Yi So-sun. The other advisor Rev. Kang Hui-nam retained his position.

The resignation of four out of the five advisors of the nationwide dissident organization came a week after a motion calling for the joining with other dissident group members to form a progressive party was voted down in a meeting of delegations to the convention early this month. The four leading figures issued a statement in which they declared they were joining the move to form a people's party.

"Now, the formation of a people's party is urgent at a time when the alliance of conservative, anti-democratic forces has been realized," the four claimed in the joint statement.

The virtual withdrawal of the four leading dissidents is expected to weaken the nationwide dissident organization whose senior members have been caught in a controversy over its future course of action.

Chonminnyon's Failure To Form Party Analyzed

SK0803015090 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 8 Mar 90 p 8

[News Analysis by staff reporter Kang Song-chol: "Chonminnyon Disputes Seen To Affect Dissident Drive"]

[Text] The dissident movement is showing signs of a possible split at a time when it keenly needs unity. Leading dissident activists are currently at odds against each other over whether to join the existing political circles by inaugurating a progressive party. On the surface the question may seem settled, but disputes will most likely continue.

At its recent general meeting, Chonminnyon, or the National Alliance for Democratic Movement, voted against a proposal for pushing for a political party. The nation's largest organization of dissident groups also decided to ban its members from participating in any political party.

It remains questionable, however, whether the decision reached in a vote showdown will be faithfully abided by. Political observers say they cannot rule out the possibility of some disgruntled members bolting from the alliance inaugurated about a year ago. Organization members admit the seriousness of the situation, while expressing concern that the disputes may negatively affect their leading role in the dissident circles.

It is not the first time that the dissident organization is engaged in serious argument over whether to turn itself into a political party. Last September a group of members, led by such prominent figures as Chang Ki-pyo, withdrew from the alliance, advocating a need to form their own party. They are currently exerting efforts to give birth to a progressive party, aiming to field candidates in coming local council elections.

The alliance came to be gripped again by calls for the inauguration of a political party, after the recent political realignment which led to the creation of a new mammoth ruling party. Advocates of a political party cite changes in the political atmosphere, saying future politics will ultimately evolve over the structure of conservative forces versus progressive ones. They claim that the existing opposition parties are conservative in their basic nature and cannot fully accommodate the wishes of the public at the grass-roots level. They maintain that the people have become politically mature enough to accommodate the emergence of a progressive party.

Their opponents, on the other hand, insist that it is still premature for dissident activists to form their own political party. Instead, they call for stepped-up efforts to strengthen and streamline the organization and activities of the dissident movement. They demand that instead of seeking to launch a political party, the alliance should push for "grand alliance of democratic forces" with the existing opposition parties.

The rejection of a proposal for launching a political party came as a surprise, as it was approved at a meeting of chief executive members held prior to the plenary meeting. The development may be considered an example showing that the alliance is lacking in effective leadership. The cacophonous developments within the alliance have sparked speculation that it may no longer be able to play a central role in dissident movements.

Radical Students Fail To Occupy DLP Offices

SK0803025090 Seoul YONHAP in English 0149 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Text] Seoul, March 8 (OANA-YONHAP)—Five radical students were arrested and three others escaped Wednesday after a bungled attempt to occupy the headquarters of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP). Having been tipped off, police and agents from the Agency for National Security Planning were lying in wait when the eight members of the radical group Chondaehyop, the National Student Representatives' Council, swooped on the building.

Brandishing four home-made bombs and four steel pipes, the students charged through the front gate of the headquarters from a nearby hotel parking lot shouting "Disband the DLP" and ran into the waiting policemen and security agents, who captured five of them.

Activists in South Korea often tried to occupy public buildings to get their political messages across to the public, and this was their first attempted occupation since the spring semester began.

Among the arrested is Mun Kwang-myong, a former vice chairman of Chondaehyop who was on the police wanted list on charges of violating the National Security Law in connection with the group's dispatch of a delegate to the international youth festival in North Korea in July last year. Mun, 24, a senior studying Russian literature and language at Seoul National University, became de facto leader of Chondaehyop after chairman Im Chong-sok was arrested late last year. A new chairman was sworn in in late February.

The arrested students told police they had planned to mount a sit-in protest in the eighth-floor office of Kim Yong-sam, the former opposition party head who is now a DLP co-leader, to protest Kim's merger with the then-ruling party. In late January, the Democratic Justice Party formed an alliance with Kim's Reunification Democratic Party and the New Democratic Republican Party of Kim Chong-pil to create the mammoth DLP.

In preparation for the occupation, they had leaflets and a five-meter-long placard inscribed with "Disband the one-party dictatorship, DLP," police said. The leaflets denounced the formation of the DLP as "a cunning U.S. political gimmick and domination scheme to divide and reign over the Korean peninsula forever."

Their makeshift bombs, made from orange juice cans filled with an unknown explosive substance, were not meant to kill people but to surprise them with a loud bang, police said.

Burma

SLORC News Briefing on Elections, Bank Note

BK0203094590 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Excerpts] The State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] Information Committee held its 80th news conference with local and foreign journalists at 1300 today in the Ministry of Defense reception hall. [passage omitted] At the news conference, U Min Aung, director general of the Ministry of Finance and Planning Budget Department, gave information about the new 200-kyat bank note and the Information Committee explained SLORC Order No. 3/90 on the right to assemble and campaign. U Min Aung explained in detail the date when the new bank note will be issued and described its appearance and size.

Explaining SLORC Order No. 3/90 on the right to assemble and campaign, the Information Committee said that the order was issued on 23 February 1990 and that the 23 February news conference had explained the order in detail. [passage omitted]

The Information Committee said it had repeatedly stated that the right to assemble and campaign will be granted to political parties as scheduled. However some political parties and foreign journals and broadcasting stations—which have never viewed our government favorably and have been disseminating slander against us—have said the right to assemble and campaign will never be given. When the government publicly announced the order on the right to assemble and campaign on 23 February—as it had pledged—we were sad to hear that some organizations inside and outside the country that have always viewed the government unfavorably were saying the provisions for assembly and campaigning were far too restrictive.

We would like to explain the order on the right to assemble and campaign through the journalists. There are two forms of campaigning. One form is to deliver speeches inside a party organization's compound and another form is to deliver speeches in public as prescribed. Campaigning inside a party compound has been going on for a long time. Now they will be able to systematically deliver speeches in public. Therefore, we would like to explain public campaigning. Speeches should not contain points that violate the law but should contain significant historic points. It will be necessary to record the headlines and ideas of the speeches as documents to be kept as historical references for the respective parties. Keeping such records will be good for the prestige of political parties and beneficial to the country. [passage omitted]

Another point is the security angle. Our country—which is not completely free of insurgency—is not like many developed and developing countries. Insurgency—which emerged along with independence—has not ended in our country. The insurgents have survived because of various forms of aid and encouragement from some major capitalist-imperialist countries; proceeds from smuggling state-owned precious jade, teak, hardwood, cattle, marine products, and buddha images; and smuggling narcotics produced from opium grown by indigenous people in remote border areas. When public assembly and campaigning takes place in the country, these insurgents could take advantage of the situation to incite disturbances. We have seen many instances of overt and covert subversive elements taking advantage of such a situation. We have concrete proof of some major countries which still have imperialist tendencies providing timely assistance to organizations that pine for the aunt over the the mother's shoulder [Burmese saying meaning to look to outsiders rather than to one's own people].

We do not have far to look for proof of this. We experienced it during the 1988 events. People who have experienced the threat of colonialism detest such a development and are determined to repulse colonialism. We have to set rules for assembly and campaigning in order to prevent the overt and covert subversive elements and the colonial-imperialists from exerting their influence, and to ensure that law and order prevail and campaigning is disciplined. [passage omitted]

Next, the Information Committee answered journalists' questions. In response to a question from the ANTARA correspondent on whether martial law will be lifted during the campaign period, the Information Committee answered that although martial law may not be lifted simultaneously in all three military commands where it has been proclaimed, it will be lifted in townships where the situation permits. Martial law has already been lifted in townships where the situation permitted. [passage omitted]

In response to questions from KYODO, UPI, and XINHUA correspondents, the Information Committee answered that under the order on the right to assemble and campaign, political parties—which were previously allowed to assemble and campaign inside buildings—will be allowed to assemble and campaign in public. However, action will be taken against those who create disturbances while campaigning in public. [passage omitted] If disturbances take place during public campaigning, those responsible will be interrogated and action will be taken. [passage omitted] The news conference ended at 1400.

Central Bank Issues Release on New Banknote

BK0103151590 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Excerpts] The Central Bank of Myanmar [Burma] has issued a press release dated 1 March 1990. The full text of the press release is as follows:

The Central Bank of Myanmar will issue a new 200-kyat banknote on 27 March 1990 [Armed Forces Day]. The new banknote will be issued to the general public at the

Currency Department of the Central Bank of Myanmar and branches of Myanmar Economic Bank after 27 March 1990 on days the banks are open. One-kyat, five-kyat, and 10-kyat banknotes and coins issued by the former Union of Burma Bank; one-kyat, five-kyat, and 10-kyat banknotes and coins issued by the former People's Bank of the Union of Burma; one-kyat, five-kyat, 10-kyat, 25-kyat, 45-kyat, and 90-kyat banknotes and coins issued by the former Union of Burma; and one-kyat banknotes issued by the Central Bank of Myanmar will continue to be legal tender. [passage omitted] The new banknotes are being issued in accordance with normal banking procedures to replace very old and tattered currency notes with new notes of corresponding value. This press release is issued to prevent the spreading of rumors by unscrupulous persons who would exploit the situation.

FRG Human Rights Panel Chairman on Elections

BK2802042490 London BBC in Burmese to Burma 1400 GMT 27 Feb 90

[From the "Current World Affairs" program]

[Text] A West German parliamentary delegation that recently visited Myanmar [Burma] is convinced that the elections to be held in that country in May will be manipulated. This is the first time that politicians from the West have visited Myanmar since the crushing of the prodemocracy demonstrations by the military. Here is a report by Neil Kelly in Bangkok on the statement made by Dr. Frederich Vogel, chairman of the West German parliamentary committee for human rights.

Dr. Vogel said the election rules were written to suit one's will and they did not provide an equal winning chance to political parties. Only the military government had the right to decide what was legal, and even the special commission assigned to supervise the elections was under the control of the military government. Such arrangements and the siege mentality of the government raised doubts in the world that free elections would be held. Although Dr. Vogel did not reject the possibility that the election result may turn out to be against the wish of the military, he did not know if the military would accept such a result. He said that there was an angry, heated exchange of words between his delegation and members of the State Law and Order Restoration Council.

The delegation told government officials that it did not believe that the elections would be fair and free or that there would be any respect for human rights. The meeting, he said, was not held under diplomatic circumstances. Dr. Vogel said that as requested, questions were written down an handed over some days in advance, but even then many of them were simply rejected because they amounted to interference in the internal affairs of Myanmar. Dr. Vogel said he and his colleagues were accused of posing questions prepared by the ethnic minority rebels because, they said, the German people could not have known how to ask such questions. Dr. Vogel said he was concerned with the human rights situation Myanmar.

[Begin Vogel recording in English, in progress] ...my contacts have convinced me that there will always be torture in the prisons held by the Army, and I think that is one point that makes it impossible to have a fair trial. They have... [end recording]

Khin Nyunt, Myo Nyunt on Elections, Workers

BK1902090190 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Brigadier General Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC], this morning inspected the project to boost petroleum production at the No. 1 Oil Refinery in Thanhlyin under the Myanmar [Burma] Petrochemical Enterprise and the Ministry of Energy, as well as projects to develop Thanhlyin and Kyauktan townships. During the tour he had meetings with the managerial staff and personnel at departments concerned. [passage omitted]

Speaking at a meeting, Brig. Gen. Khin Nyunt said that presently, there was not enough raw material input for the Thanhlyin oil refinery, which could only operate at a rate of 120,000 gallons of crude per day. He said that when the refinery operates at its full capacity in the near future, the daily rate is expected to rise to 900,000 gallons of crude. Raw material will be made available for these operations, and therefore essential preparations must be made beforehand to accommodate that capacity. [passage omitted] He said that since the refinery was the main distributor of fuel oil essential for the operation of all the machinery in the country, emphasis must be placed on security. Should the refinery stop operating, the whole of the country may come to a halt. Every staff worker in charge must prevent the (?spreading of influence) of subversive elements within the refinery. It is vital to make arrangements to keep essential spare parts on hand so that the refinery can operate regularly. [passage omitted]

Today, it is vital for the public service personnel to have a clear view toward the government. If their outlook is still blurry, they must be educated. If the education process does not work, effective action must be taken. Public service personnel must be loyal to the incumbent government, whichever it might be. Our government is working in the interests of the nation and the people. We do not show bias toward any party or organization, do not have attachments to a certain party, and are not going to prop up a certain party.

As promised, the multiparty democratic general election will be held without fail and in a correct manner. Public service personnel may freely vote for the party of their choice. However, it is necessary for managers to take decisive action if they find public service personnel campaigning, organizing, or instigating for political parties. The workers are urged to work enthusiastically to

achieve the targeted production at the refinery. The state will not ignore them and will provide assistance. [passage omitted]

Later, the secretary-1 and his party arrived back in Thanhlyin. At 1400, he had a meeting with workers of departments and factories and mills in Thanhlyin at the training hall of the Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise. Speaking on the occasion, Brig. Gen. Khin Nyunt said the SLORC was working around the clock on constructive projects that would benefit the country and the people. This, however, is not being done to win the people over so that they will like our government. We are doing everything possible while we are in charge so the country will develop and so backwardness can be overcome. He said: We do not have any preference for an individual or a party, nor do we have any party behind us. We are doing what should be done in the interest of the country and the people, under the leadership of the chief of the Defense Services, General Saw Maung.

Public service personnel should be free of favoritism for a particular party or an individual and should only work for the interest of the nation. Public service personnel may, however, freely cast their votes for the choice of their party, but we will not tolerate any act that disrupts the unity within the public service. Such an act must be prevented and action taken at all levels. We have laid down four major tasks and are working with the three causes in mind—to keep the Union intact, to keep national unity intact, and to safeguard and perpetuate our sovereignty. Public service personnel should also work with might and with a sense of patriotism and nationalism.

Next, Brig. Gen. Myo Nyunt, member of the SLORC and commander of the Yangon Military Command, said special attention must be given to the security of factories and mills. Those responsible as well as the people must work together with vigilance and not differentiate duties when it comes to stopping destructive work of saboteurs aimed at disrupting the constructive tasks of the nation. We must prevent the saboteurs from disrupting the multiparty democratic general elections, because they may act like the saying: to throw sand on the food that one cannot eat so that the others may not eat.

We, the Defense Forces, will take definitive steps and work in a fair manner so multiparty democratic general elections can be held successfully. We are also determined to take decisive action against those who engage in destructive work. It is the duty of the government, the people, and political parties to make the elections a success. Service personnel can vote freely for individuals who can work in the interest of the country and the people. [passage omitted]

In conclusion, Secretary-1 Brig. Gen. Khin Nyunt said that in the same way that the SLORC has undertaken constructive tasks in the political, economic, and administrative sectors, departmental officials and service personnel have also been working around the clock in these tasks. In the interest of the nation and the people, service personnel must maintain the momentum gained in carrying out these tasks not only while the SLORC is in charge but also during the tenure of the government that has been legally elected by the people. [passage omitted]

Myo Nyunt Address Soldiers at Kyaikkasan

BK0203110190 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] At 0745 today, Brigadier General Myo Nyunt, commander of the Yangon [Rangoon] Military Command, met with and delivered an address to officers, noncommissioned officers, and those of other ranks who will march at the 1990 45th Armed Forces Day [held annually on 27 March] military parade at Saya San Hall in the Kyaikkasan Grounds. Present for the occasion were Colonel Sein Ya, director of training; Colonel Kett Sein, deputy commander of Yangon Military Command; regional military commanders; members of the management committee of the 45th Armed Forces Day; invited guests; parade marshals; commanders of military columns; regimental commanders; company commanders; noncommissioned officers; and those of other ranks.

In his address, Brig. Gen. Myo Nyunt said he had a few words to say about the endeavors of the Defense Services for independence and the three current responsibilities of the Defense Services contained in the 44th Armed Forces Day speech of General Saw Maung, commander in chief of the Defense Services. He said our Defense Services, while upholding the four oaths of allegiance, are defending the country from internal and external aggression in the spirit of sacrifice and courage in order to maintain the country's independence.

Continuing, Brig. Gen. Myo Nyunt said members of the Defense Services are to help in successfully holding the multiparty democrati general elections. He said our Defense Services have been branded as fascist for assuming state responsibilities in order to prevent the country from being enslaved again, and that efforts are being made to destroy the Defense Services. He said while the name of General Aung San [national hero and assassinated father of Aung San Suu Kyi] was being used everywhere, no one has attempted to explain the policy set by Gen. Aung San to the people. It is regrettable that the Defense Services have been branded as fascist.

Brig. Gen. Myo Nyunt went on to say that members of the Defense Services already know in detail the speeches of the chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council and its commander in chief. He said the members of our Defense Services are relentlessly carrying out national construction tasks in accordance with the instructions of the commander in chief. He said we must uphold the four oaths of allegiance and the motto: We will not be divided no matter who tries. We must not lose sight of our three responsibilities and must maintain the

noble tradition of being well-trained members of the Defense Services who do not want to be enslaved.

Top Army Officials Tour Mergui, Mawton Areas

BK2502091690 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Major General Phone Myint, member of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC], minister of home and religious affairs and information, and quartermaster general of the Defense Services, in the company of Brigadier General Nyan Lin, commander of the Southeast Military Command, and Colonel Tin Aye, deputy commander of the Southeast Military Command, visited the 3d Medical Corps under the 535th Field Hospital Unit in Mergui on 23 February and offered gifts and talks of encouragement to the soldiers who were wounded during the battle to take over Mawton camp. The minister left the area medical corps at 0730.

At 0740, the minister; Brig. Gen. Tin U, SLORC secretary-2; Brig. Gen. Nyan Lin, chairman of the Mon State Law and Order Restoration Council; and departmental officials under different ministries held a meeting to explain related departmental work to personnel and dependent families of the 17th Infantry Regiment as well as officials of Mergui at the conference hall of the 17th Infantry Regiment. [passage omitted] Speaking at the meeting Secretary-2 Brig. Gen. Tin U said since the Three Pagodas Pass and Mawton regions have already been occupied, control over these regions will be asserted and communication routes opened so the regions can be developed. A total of 77,500 logs which were about to be smuggled to the other country were seized following the Mawton battle.

The country suffers greatly from the fact that the insurgents, in collusion with those greedy selfish traders from the other country, are smuggling the country's natural resources at the border. Resources at the border must be utilized for the benefit of the country and efforts must be made to development the country. Since there can be no success without work even if the plans are good, public service personnel are required to work. [passage omitted]

Since the number remaining insurgents are so few that there are almost none left in the eastern and northeastern parts of Myanmar [Burma], the government is providing all necessary assistance to the local people who for many years had suffered under the insurgents. Today, while efforts are made to develop the nation, it will be necessary for public service personnel to strictly observe the disciplinary rules and to make determined efforts in the constructive tasks of the state. [passage omitted]

At 0900, Quartermaster General Maj. Gen. Phone Myint and Army Chief of Staff Brig. Gen. Tin U, and Brig. Gen. Nyan Lin, in the company of responsible officers, proceeded from Mergui to Mawton and arrived there at 0955. [passage omitted] The party left Mawton at 1235 and arrived back in Taninthayi at about 1300. [passage omitted]

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Mahathir Calls Commonwealth 'Dynamic' Grouping

BK1203094490 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0843 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 12 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The Commonwealth has now been acknowledged as one of the most successful international groupings whose decisions are of importance outside the organisation, Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamed said Monday [12 March]. The changing circumstances and attitudes among its member countries had transformed the Commonwealth into a cohesive and dynamic grouping, he said when addressing a luncheon of the Malaysian branch of the Royal Commonwealth Society to mark Commonwealth day here.

"The Commonwealth today has shed many of the negative traits of its former self and adopted many programmes of action reflecting the aspirations of member countries, particularly the developing ones," he said. "We are beginning to share many of the things that we collectively possess and it may not be long before we may be able to probably share the 'common wealth' that the Commonwealth has," he said.

Dr Mahathir said though in the past the Commonwealth had initiated various forms of cooperation for the benefit of its members, such as the Colombo Plan and Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation, its views were divergent and ineffective over major international economic and political issues. "And more lamentable was the indifference on the part of some senior Commonwealth members to the pleas and cries for understanding by the less fortunate members regarding their problems, and fortunately this state of affair is no longer valid," he added.

The prime minister assured that Malaysia would continue to contribute to the Commonwealth and work closely with member countries for the common good. Despite being a small developing nation, Malaysia was prepared to share its expertise and experience with member countries of the Commonwealth as well as with those outside the grouping, he said.

Foreign Minister Leaves for UN Session, Africa

BK1203090090 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0800 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Datuk Abu Hassan Omar has left for New York to attend a special session of the UN Security Council. The meeting beginning on Wednesday will discuss Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel and their settlements in Tel Aviv-occupied Arab lands.

Speaking before his departure from Kuala Lumpur today, Datuk Abu Hassan said Malaysia strongly condemns the illegal resettling of Soviet Jews in the West Bank and Gaza Strip which it considers as the Palestinian state. Malaysia is in the second year of a two-year term as a nonpermanent member of the Security Council.

The foreign minister said taking the Soviet Jewish immigrants in the occupied territories contravenes the fourth Geneva Convention which states that an occupying power is not allowed to transfer people to the area under its control. He said Malaysia is not opposed to Soviet Jewish immigration to areas within Israel's pre-1967 borders. Tel Aviv's move, however, was to fulfill its expansionist dream for a greater Israel stretching from the Nile to the Euphrates.

Following the 10-day Security Council session, Datuk Abu Hassan will visit Namibia and Swaziland. He is to represent the prime minister at Namibia's independence day celebrations on 21 March. The foreign minister will also hold discussions with Namibian leaders on bilateral matters, including aid programs under the Malaysian technical cooperation program.

Datuk Abu Hassan's visit to Swaziland is the first by a Malaysian foreign minister. He will also identify areas for bilateral cooperation with Swaziland, including trade and technical assistance.

Singapore

Defense Official Says U.S. Presence 'Vital'

BK1203115990 Singapore THE SUNDAY TIMES in English 11 Mar 90 p 1

["US Presence in S-E Asia Vital: BG Lee"—THE SUNDAY TIMES headline]

[Text] A "PERSUASIVE" United States presence in South-east Asia is needed to avoid a power vacuum that others will scramble to fill, Brigadier General [BG] (Res) [Reserves] Lee Hsien Loong said yesterday [10 March].

American presence has been a major factor in the region's stability and growth and a smaller US commitment to the region may force other powers to take on its role, said BG Lee, who is Second Minister for Defence (Services). In military terms, these other powers were no means negligible, he said, citing India and Japan as examples.

BG Lee, who is also the Minister for Trade and Industry, was speaking at the graduation ceremony of 86 officers as the Pasir Laba Safti Camp. The officers comprised 74 graduates from the Medical Officers Cadet Course (MOCC) and a batch of 12 scholars and award recipients.

Touching on the history of Southeast Asia, BG Lee highlighted two lessons about the realities of the geopolitics of the region:

—The region has always been a focus of competition among powers. They included both regional powers, like the Sri Vijaya, Majapahit empires and the Malacca Sultanates, as well as extra-regional ones, like the Portuguese, Dutch and the British;

— The advantage of Singapore's geographic position can be lost easily. Continued success depends on the island keeping up a high standard of performance, maintaining its physical security, and plugging into the regional and global economies.

BG Lee warned that some things have changed today but others have not: "While the impulse of the colonial powers to rule and civilize remote parts of the world may have disappeared, competition for economic and political influence has not." He said the rivalry between the superpowers was not the main threat to the stability of the region. The US presence has, in fact, been a positive influence.

"Without a persuasive US presence, there will be a power vacuum, which other powers would scramble to fill." BG Lee said that India, for example, had a powerful blue-water navy, with nuclear submarines and two aircraft carriers.

Japan too was steadily modernising its forces. "As an economic superpower, it has an understandable interest in the state of this region," BG Lee said. Its defence budget of 1 percent of its GDP, in absolute terms, was the third largest military budget in the world. Noting that Japan presently enjoyed protection from the US nuclear umbrella and depended on the US to maintain a regional balance, he added: "A smaller US commitment may force Japan to take on this role itself. This will be a different environment to get used to."

He said that through all the uncertainty of rapidly changing scenarios, Singapore's vital interests "must be kept steadfastly in view". He listed three concerns:

—TO HAVE a stable Southeast Asia, free from conflict and strife;

—TO PREVENT external elements from causing instability within Singapore;

—TO STRIVE constantly for economic progress and growth.

He pointed to the constructive role the Singapore Armed Forces [SAF] could play in these concerns. "Its very existence, its known professionalism and credibility discourages external threats to Singapore and thus contributes to regional stability. "The SAF makes prosperity possible by being an effective deterrent to any political aggressor."

"A central fact of the history of this region is that the key to influence and power lies in the control of the maritime trade routes in the Straits of Malacca and the South China sea.

The Sri Vijaya empire, and the Malacca Sultanates, were maritime-based powers. It was also the case when Europeans came to establish themselves in the region, he said. "After Sir Stamford Raffles founded modern Singapore in 1819 for the British East India Company, Singapore quickly eclipsed Malacca as the centre for regional entrepot trade," he noted.

"Initially, Singapore's success has depended on its developing the advantages of this position. "Now, in an age of jetliners and satellite communications, our location at the southern tip of the Malaysian peninsula is no longer so unique. Satellites can be anywhere and so can international airports."

But he stressed that Singapore's economic vitality still depends on its free and unimpeded access to sea and air lanes of communications with the rest of the world.

Goh Supports 'Forward-Looking' Approach

BK0903102190 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 9 Mar 90 p 1

[By Bertha Henson]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur—Mr Goh Chok Tong said yesterday that he would adopt a forward-looking, future-oriented approach in dealing with Malaysia when he becomes Prime Minister. He hoped to consolidate the efforts made by Prime Ministers Mahathir Mohamed and Lee Kuan Yew in building close bilateral ties.

Mr Goh, who takes over as Prime Minister later this year, said that he would not let past difficulties get in the way of future relations. Rather, as a post-independence leader without any "emotional baggage", he would concentrate on building ties that would last for succeeding generations of leaders.

This was the focus of his discussions with Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir during their one-hour meeting on Wednesday [7 March], he told reporters at a Subang airport press conference before he left for home.

"I explained to Dr Mahathir that I represent the post-independence generation of Singaporeans and I look to the future. I do not look back into the past," he said. Mr Goh, who is also Defence Minister, said that he impressed on Dr Mahathir that he did not carry the emotional baggage of the past. "I am old enough to know what had gone on in the past, but young enough not to be physically or personally involved in the events between Singapore and Malaysia.

"At any rate, I am not interested in balancing the accounts, to find out what is the debit and credit. I am interested in consolidating what the two prime ministers have already achieved, to pave the way for a better future in bilateral relations." Mr Goh said that if he and Dr Mahathir did not "click", it would spell trouble for a whole generation of Singaporeans and Malaysians.

The difficulty would be compounded when Malaysia experienced a change of prime ministers, as soured relations might then be perpetuated. He said that Dr Mahathir understood his point of view, and had replied that he himself had gone to great lengths to ensure good ties with Singapore since becoming Prime Minister in 1981.

Both agreed that the way forward for both countries was to work together. "Occasional difficulties there will be, there must be, because we are two different countries. But if there is an understanding of the more important basic picture, I think the difficulties can and will be resolved," he said.

With Mr Goh at the press conference was his host, Malaysian Defence Minister Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen. They met reporters at the airport's Hibiscus Room, a VIP lounge usually reserved for heads of State or Government.

Asked if he saw a need for some formal mechanism for the exchange of views between leaders of the two countries, he said he preferred informal contacts. This way, leaders could establish personal rapport and clear up any misconceptions that might arise. His one-day visit here, the result of a long-standing invitation from Tengku Rithauddeen, was an example of such informal contact as he had been able to meet a cross-section of Malaysian ministers, deputy ministers and top civil servants over golf and meals, besides meetings.

While he called on Dr Mahathir, his accompanying ministers—Dr Lee Boon Yang, senior minister of state for home affairs and national development; Mr Mah Bow Tan, minister of state for trade and industry and communications and information and Mr Peter Sung, minister of state for foreign affairs and national development—had met their Malaysian counterparts.

Mr Goh, who described his visit as "brief, quick but nevertheless productive", recounted how he also took the opportunity to explain to Dr Mahathir the reasons for the "half-tank rule". The Singapore law was recently cited by Malaysian Culture and Tourism Minister Sabbaruddin Chik as evidence that Mr Lee Kuan Yew was not sincere in urging Singaporeans to visit Malaysia to make its Vist Malaysia Year 1990 a success.

Mr Goh said he explained that the rule, which requires all Singapore-registered vehicles bound for Johor Bahru to have at least a half-tank of petrol, was among a host of measures to control the use of cars here. He said that if Datuk Sabbaruddin had "known us earlier and had a chance to pose us questions" the rule could have been explained to him and he might never have made those comments.

Mr Goh said that Datuk Sabbaruddin did not raise the subject when they met over lunch on Wednesday. "I think he has more or less understood already," he said.

Joint Naval Exercise With Brunei Begins 12 Mar

BK1303103790 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 13 Mar 90 p 21

[Text] The joint annual naval exercise between Singapore and Brunei moved into higher gear with this year's Exercise Pelican focusing on battle planning and execution of battle orders.

For the first time in eleven years, the exercise between the Flotilla, Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) and the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) will be held at the Tactical Training Centre (TTC) at Pulau Brani Naval Base. And for the first time, too, it will not involve deployment of ships.

Fleet Commander of the RSN, Colonel Kwek Siew Jin, said: "The TTC allows us to move Exercise Pelican to a higher operational level, to test the skills of the commanding officer and his command team in building up a sea picture, detecting and identifying the targets, and taking appropriate action, before the opposing force is able to do the same."

This will be quite different from the past exercises which involved ships and where the concentration was on weaponry and seamanship skills like navigation and replenishment at sea, added Col Kwek, who was speaking at the opening of the exercise yesterday. The use of computerised simulators allows for greater latitude of control and critical aspects of the plan can be emphasised so that valuable lessons could be derived, Col Kwek noted.

"If necessary, exercises can be repeated until all problem areas are ironed out, and the plan is clearly understood by all," he said.

Training simulators are widely used by all three services (army, navy and air force) of the SAF [Singapore Armed Forces] to complement actual training in the field, sea or in the air. The method of training involves the creation of audio-visual effects with high-tech simulators and computers. It allows for realistic training to be carried out and is also cost-effective.

The aim of Exercise Pelican, for which the two countries alternate as hosts, is to develop common operational procedures, practices and naval techniques and enhancing mutual cooperation and understanding between the two navies.

The RSN is hosting this year's exercise, which will involve 30 personnel from the two navies. Major Yim Foon Wai from the RSN is the exercise director while Major Hani Jamaluddin Bin Ghafar from the RBAF is the deputy.

Cambodia

Hun Sen Sends Letter to Muskie, Horowitz

BK1203152390 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister of the State of Cambodia, has sent a letter explaining his government's stance on the solution to the Cambodian conflict, to His Excellency Mr. Edmund Muskie, chairman of the Center for National Policy of the United States and His Excellency Michael J. Horowitz. The letter reads as follows:

I recall with pleasure our meeting in Phnom Penh and am most grateful for your various personal contributions to a better understanding of the problem of Cambodia among the U.S. public. I wish to especially thank you for your very positive and constructive statements on Cambodia at the recent hearings of the U.S. Congress foreign affairs subcommittee. Like all of us except the Khmer Rouge, I am sure you were disappointed in the results of the informal meeting on Cambodia recently held in Jakarta. We had hoped that the meeting would have produced some progress conducive to the reconvening of the Paris conference and the ending of the civil war in Cambodia. However, again the Khmer Rouge, using the same tactics and veto power as in Paris, succeeded in sinking it at the last moment.

Well before and at the Jakarta meeting, the State of Cambodia welcomed the Australian proposal for the UN role in the settlement of the Cambodia problem. We have formally agreed to the setting up of a UN interim authority mandated to supervise the implementation of international agreements on Cambodia and to organize and supervise free elections in Cambodia. With regard to UN involvement in the civil administration during the transitional period, we are also prepared to discuss the various options formulated by the foreign minister of Australia and to select the best one capable of discarding chaos, of safeguarding the normal daily economic and social life, law and order, of preventing the Pol Pot genocidal group from taking the opportunity to return to repeat their killings, and of preventing the government in place from exercising its influence over the holding of a free and fair election.

I wish to stress that the key to a political resolution to the problem of Cambodia does not remain with the structuring of an interim administration during the transitional period which would require the dissolution of the existing administration and the setting up of a quadripartite one, nor with the UN trusteeship. The key is rather with providing guarantees that the Cambodian people can express themselves through UN organized and supervised free elections. This ultimate aim of the political solution will be achieved by the people of Cambodia having exercised their full rights of self-determination. Therefore, we should focus our concern to this key issue and concentrate our efforts in solving it.

The State of Cambodia has accepted the UN role with the aim of addressing the essential issue of the political solution, the free elections. I believe that any political solution must give prior consideration to the vital interests of the Cambodian people. At the same time, it must also address the concerns of parties to the conflict or involved in the conflict. The concerns of parties to the conflict are different. The party of Democratic Kampuchea worries about election process, that elections may not be free, and that it might lose some votes. We are mindful of this party's concerns. For this reason, we have proposed that the United Nations should organize and supervise these elections.

Experiences in some countries like the Philippines, East European countries, Namibia, and Nicaragua have shown that opposition parties won the elections and set up new governments as a result of elections organized by the incumbent governments while they maintained complete control over the armed forces, the administration, and the socioeconomic life. Except in Namibia and Nicaragua where elections were internationally supervised, elections elsewhere were not organized by the United Nations nor held under international supervision, and yet free elections had been held in these countries. Therefore, free elections in Cambodia could certainly be held, organized, and supervised by the United Nations. I believe that the people of Cambodia will certainly pay attention to their interests when they go to the polling stations placed under the protection and supervision of UN officers, hence freed from coercion and fraud. Our concerns differ from those of the other side. We are not worried about losing votes but rather about losing national sovereignty if it is decided to place Cambodia under complete UN control. We are preoccupied with the loss of life of the Cambodian people and with chaos resulting from the dissolution of the existing administration.

The question of whether to change this situation before or after the elections became a burning issue at the Paris conference and finally came to a deadlock. Before making such a decision to dismantle the existing administrative structure, careful consideration must be given as to what might happen as a result. Will national sovereignty be dissolved if Cambodia is placed under UN administration? Will law and order, as well as socioeconomic life, fall into chaos? Will the Pol Potists, who have waited for so long to take this opportunity, grab the power by force of arms when the State of Cambodia, the only force to oppose the return of Pol Pot, is dismantled? I stress that any chaos in law and order, or in socioeconomic life will be enough to subvert all efforts aimed at a free election, and this chaos will pull back Cambodia's reconstruction, notwithstanding the peril of Pol Pot's return.

I appeal through you, to the international community and especially to the American people, to address these concerns of the Cambodian people, both inside and outside the country. Any political solution must pay attention to the prevention of the recurrence of the Pol Pot genocidal regime. The State of Cambodia has publicly stated that it could never subscribe to or agree to any political solution in which no mention had been made with regard to the prevention of the return of the Pol Pot genocidal regime. This is a vital interest of the Cambodian people.

Events that have occurred so far allow me to share with you this final conclusion: No political solution to the problem of Cambodia could be found if assistance and legitimacy continue to be provided to the Pol Pot genocidal group. The continuation of the assistance and legitimacy given to this group not only will allow it to enjoy the right of veto to all agreements on a political solution, but will also allow it the opportunity to massacre more Cambodian people. Therefore, in order to force it to accept a political solution, sanctions must be made and all sources of assistance must be cut off, including assistance indirectly provided to Pol Pot's allies who are collaborating with Pol Pot.

I would like to apologize to you, who have to spend a lot of time reading my long letter, and hope that Your Excellencies will assist the Cambodian people in finding a durable peace. Please accept my high consideration.

Decision on Army Service Registration Issued

BK0703133790 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Council of Ministers decision on military service registration, issued on 5 March—read by announcer]

[Text] Considering the Constitution of the State of Cambodia; considering the law on the organization and function of the Council of Ministers promulgated by Decree No. 03 dated 10 February 1982; considering the law on the amended organization, function, and tasks of the Ministry of National Defense promulgated by Decree No. 50 dated 27 July 1989; considering the law on military service promulgated by Decree No. 52 dated 26 July 1989; considering Decree-Law No. 07 dated 12 July 1982 dealing with the jurisdiction and legal procedures in making laws and orders; and with the recommendation of the Ministry of National Defense, the Council of Ministers decides:

Chapter I—General Regulations

Article 1: Every 18-year-old male citizen and those within the age limits of military service, with the exception of employers, employees, and workers currently employed in the armed forces and police units, shall enlist for national defense duty in accordance with the restrictions of this decision.

Article 2: The registration for national defense duty is divided into two categories: A) military service registry; and B) military reservist registry.

Article 3: Those who shall enlist in the military service registry are: A) citizens who are 17 years old who will enlist in the registry for those awaiting military service; and B) citizens between 18 and 30 who will enlist in the registry for those ready for military service.

Article 4: Those who shall enlist in the military reservist registry are: A) combatants ranked between private second class and sergeant major who have completed their military service for the compulsory three-year period or longer and who have left the Army to return to their own localities or original units; and B) combatants ranked between private second class and sergeant major who have completed their military service ahead of the compulsory period, but have served for more than two years, and who have been through the military training program or participated in several battles.

Article 5: Citizens who are not required to enlist for military service are: A) wounded or handicapped citizens who cannot serve in the Army; B) citizens held in prisons or detention centers; C) citizens who had been condemned by tribunal for criminal offenses; and D) citizens whose right to serve in the army has been taken away by tribunal.

Article 6: During enlistment for military service, state and social organizations and state-owned production units and enterprises shall create conditions to facilitate the enlistment of employers, employees, workers, and students under their jurisdiction.

Chapter II—Enlistment of Citizens Ready for Army Service

Article 7: Every year, at the beginning of January, the people's committees of communes and wards shall report the numbers of their local populations to the districts, provincial seats, precincts, or suburban districts as follows:

A. Report the number of 17-year-old citizens and those aged between 18 and 30.

B. Report the revised number and the changes in the number of citizens listed in past military service registries.

C. Report the number of citizens barred from enlisting in the military service registry.

Article 8: Every year, at the beginning of January, the directors of high schools, vocational schools and classes, specialized education secondary schools, and higher education schools shall prepare lists of students aged 17 and those between 18 and 30, and forward them to the people's committees of districts, provincial seats, precincts, or suburban districts where the students live. The leaderships of state and social organizations shall prepare lists of employers, employees, and workers under their jurisdiction between the ages of 18 and 30, and send them to people's committees of districts, provincial seats, precincts, and suburban districts where their units are located.

Article 9: Every year, at the end of January, people's committees of districts, provincial seats, precincts, and suburban districts shall sum up the statistics sent in by communes, wards, schools, and state and social organizations. After summing them up, the people's committees of districts, provincial seats, precincts, and suburban districts shall assign the people's committees of these communes, wards, boarding schools, and state and social organizations to enlist those ready for military service and conduct health checkups. During the time the communes, wards, boarding schools, state organizations, or social organizations are proceeding with the enlistment of those ready for military service or conducting their medical examinations, the people's committees of districts, provincial seats, precincts, and suburban districts shall set up joint committees to monitor, advise, and assist them.

Article 10: Every year, at the beginning of April, the people's committees of communes and wards shall send letters to unregistered inhabitants, students, and workers living in their localities informing them to enlist in the registry for those ready for military service. Ministries, institutions, social organizations, factories, enterprises, and schools shall organize military service enlistment for employers, employees, workers, and boarding school students under their jurisdiction.

Article 11: After the enlistment for military service and medical examinations, the people's committees of communes and wards, state organizations, and social organizations, as provided in Article 10, shall sum up the results of the enlistment; prepare Registries 01, 02, and 03; report them to districts, provincial seats, precincts, and suburban districts; and ask that enlistment identification cards be distributed to citizens who have enlisted.

Article 12: Citizens between the ages of 18 and 30 that have enlisted for military service and that have been called to serve the army or to undergo military training, shall present their enlistment identification cards to the local authorities which have called them so the latter can check on them and fill out necessary additional forms.

Chapter III: The Enlistment of Military Reservists

Article 13: Combatants who have finished their duty in the Army shall receive cards or files from their Army units stating that they have completed their duty. Within 15 days of returning to their own localities, they shall report to the their communes, wards, or original units in order to present these files and enlist in the military reservist registry. Ten days after their enlistment in the military reservist registry, their communes, wards, or original units shall report the action to the districts, provincial seats, precincts, and suburban districts so they can be listed in the military reservist registry of the districts, provincial seats, precincts, and suburban districts.

Article 14: When called for a medical examination in order to resume military training or military service, military reservists shall present their enlistment identification cards to the people's committees of districts, provincial seats, precincts, and suburban districts where they live.

Chapter IV—Change of Domicile

Article 15: Citizens ready to serve in the Army or join the military reserves and who have already enlisted in the military service registry, when changing domicile or transferring from their units, shall request the transfer of their names from the military service registry or military reservist registry of communes, wards, or original units and, within 10 days after arriving in the new

posts, these citizens or military reservists shall request the registration of their names in the military service registry in the new communes, wards, or units.

Article 16: People's committees of communes and wards and state or social organizations, after receiving the request for the transfer of names out of or registration of names in the military service registry or military reservist registry, shall report these actions to the people's committees of districts, provincial seats, precincts, and suburban districts.

Chapter V—Prolonged Absence

Article 17: Citizens who have enlisted in the military service registry or in the military reservist registry, when assigned to missions or further study inside or outside the country for a period of one or more years, shall report themselves to the districts, provincial seats, precincts, or suburban districts in order to perform the following tasks: A) to hand over the letters assigning them to missions or study; B) to present military service enlistment or reservist identification cards to the districts, provincial seats, precincts, and suburban districts where they have enlisted in the military service registry; and C) to apply for registration in the prolonged absence registry of the districts, provincial seats, precincts, and suburban districts where they have enlisted in the military service registry.

After accomplishing the task and returning to their units, they shall report themselves to the districts, provincial seats, precincts, and suburban districts where they have requested registration for prolonged absence in order to reenlist in the military service registry or military reservist registry and take back the enlistment identification cards. Districts, provincial seats, precincts, and suburban districts shall compile statistics of the type of citizens and inform their individual communes, wards, and units so they can update the military service registry or military reservist registry.

Article 18: Citizens who have enlisted in the military service registry or military reservist registry and have been assigned to missions or study inside or outside the country for a period of less than one year shall leave their military registration cards or military reservist identification cards at the communes, wards, or units where they have enlisted in the military service registry, which shall prepare statistics and report to the districts, provincial seats, precincts, and suburban districts on the prolonged absence and return of employers, employees, and workers.

Chapter VI—Tasks of Institutions at All Levels Concerning the Enlistment for Military Service

Article 19: The Ministry of National Defense has the tasks of: A) giving clear advice on the enlistment in the military service registry and the military reservist registry and counseling the military commands of provinces, cities, districts, provincial seats, precincts, and suburban districts on how to conduct inspections and prepare reports and how best to perform routine activities in the localities; and B) cooperating with the Ministry of the Interior in organizing groups to inspect the census of and registration in the military service registry.

Article 20: The Ministry of the Interior has the tasks of advising police networks at all levels in: A) cooperating with the local armed forces and authorities in order to bring success to the enlistment in the military service registry and military reservist registry; B) teaching, detaining, arresting, arraigning, and sending to court on time any individuals who violate the military service law; C) temporarily withholding military service enlistment identification cards or military reservist cards from citizens who are temporarily detained or arrested, and returning these cards when these citizens are set free; and D) informing the districts, provincial seats, precincts, and suburban districts of the citizens' domicile of their arrest, detention, change of name, or demise 15 days after the incident occurs.

Article 21: The Ministry of Health has the tasks of: A) giving information on physical ability standards to the provincial and municipal committees in charge of checking physical ability; B) issuing medical examination cards and providing equipment and technical assistance for the provinces and cities; and C) advising local health networks and providing medical cadres for districts, provincial seats, precincts, and suburban districts to help ensure success of the enlistment for national defense duty.

Article 22: State and social organizations at all levels and in all sectors shall closely cooperate in educating and encouraging more citizens who are of age to enlist for military service.

Article 23: The people's committees at all levels have the duty and responsibility to lead and advise units under their jurisdiction to organize and implement the enlistment for national defense duty and the registration of military reservists and to take good care of citizens who are ready for military service and military reservists in their respective localities in line with the instructions and recommendations of the Ministry of National Defense.

Chapter VII—Final Regulations

Article 24: The Cabinet, Council of Ministers, Ministry of National Defense, ministries and institutions concerned, and people's committees at all levels shall be assigned to implement this decision according to their respective duties.

Article 25: This decision goes into effect the day it is made public.

Phnom Penh, 5 March 1990
[Signed] Chairman Hun Sen, Council of Ministers

Kong Sam-ol at Meeting in Kompong Chhnang

BK0503075990 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Summary] On the afternoon of 23 March, a ceremony was solemnly held in Kompong Chhnang Province to

conclude the emulation meeting and handing over of the 1990 state plan. Attending this ceremony were, among others, Comrade Kong Sam-ol, member of the party Central Committee and vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers; Comrade (Suy Sem), deputy planning minister; Comrade Daok Narin, secretary of the Kompong Chhnang Province party committee; Comrade Keo Sin, deputy secretary of the provincial party committee and chairman of the people's committee in Kompong Chhnang Province; and about 230 people.

For two days, the meeting listened to reports summarizing the emulation movement's results and on the targets of the 1990 state plan read by Comrade Mak Chhunli, vice-chairman of the Kompong Chhnang provincial people's committee. Afterward, Kong Sam-ol conferred the first and second class Labor Order of the Council of Ministers on Daok Narin and Keo Sin and called on "all provincial services and armed forces to cooperate with the people and use combined forces to prevent the enemy from attacking any areas." Kong Sam-ol also called for more efforts in agricultural production and fishing.

Bou Thang Visits Banteay Meanchey Province

BK0603075190 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] In late February, Comrade General Bou Thang, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and chief of the General Political Department of the Cambodian People's Army [CPA], visited Banteay Meanchey Province to meet with the CPA cadres and combatants and people's militiamen in various localities in the province. Comrade General Bou Thang took a number of gifts and distributed them directly to combatants who are firmly stationed in Svay Chek in Thmar Puok District, on Phnum Srok battlefield, in Preah Net Preah District, Bos Sbov commune in Sereisaophoan District, and in the Poipet area. On this occasion, the comrade general listened to reports on the results of recent fighting to smash the enemies in the offensive along the Cambodian-Thai border. He also inspected the frontline and various areas affected by shelling, plundering, and burning by the three groups of Cambodian reactionaries during the time they operated in these areas.

Comrade General Bou Thang took this opportunity to pay respect and express admiration for the heroic model of cadres and combatants of the armed forces, including militiamen, who have done their best to valiantly fight to defend the motherland and the people's peaceful life. The comrade general also talked to leading party cadres, state authorities, and families of combatants in the entire Banteay Meanchey Province. He highly valued their tireless efforts to firmly defend the border area to move toward scoring brilliant victories in the future. The comrade called on cadres and combatants to strive to firmly defend social and national gains and ensure peace for the people in Banteay Meanchey Province who are living on the frontline in the western part of the motherland.

Sar Kheng Visits Kompong Thom 19-25 Feb

BK0103121590 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] Comrade Sar Kheng, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and chief of the party Central Committee Cabinet, paid a working visit to Kompong Thom Province from 19 to 25 February in order to publicize the resolutions of the 10th Session of the fifth party Central Committee among leading cadres in the province and to meet with cadres, combatants, monks, students, people, ethnic nationalities, and families that have performed good services for the motherland in Santuk, Stoung, and Baray Districts.

During the meetings and get-togethers, Comrade Sar Kheng spoke on the brilliant victories scored by the three categories of our People's Armed Forces in the western part of the motherland following the total repatriation of the Vietnamese army volunteers from Cambodia. Comrade Sar Kheng also stressed the goodwill of our party and state regarding the political settlement of the Cambodian problem, thus increasingly enhancing the international prestige of our State of the Cambodia, which has enjoyed greater support from world public opinion. He highly valued the achievements made in the past more than 11 years by cadres, combatants, and people in Kompong Thom Province, which have brought progress to the province in terms of social establishments and people's livelihood.

Comrade Sar Kheng exhorted the party committee and authorities at all levels in the province to pay attention to improving the people's livelihood, prepare all necessary conditions for increasing crop production in the coming rainy season, and strive to successfully implement the two-task slogan: All for the battlefield; all for enhancing people's confidence in the new regime.

SPK Reports Foreign Investments in Phnom Penh

BK0703150990 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1103 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK March 7—Cambodia's new economic policy which encouraged the development of all economic sectors—state, collective and private—has spurred progress in industrial, agriculture and handicraft production, and attracted foreign investments.

The city of Phnom Penh, with assistance from the Soviet Union, has installed a drinking-water distribution network at Chamka Mon and some other public facilities. With the help of Laos and Vietnam, the city has restored another network of drinking-water distribution at Phum Prek village. It has also concluded with Laos a contract on purchasing 1,000 tons of fuel. In addition, more

fraternal socialist and friendly countries have agreed to help in the economic development of Cambodia.

Last year, Phnom Penh received humanitarian aid from such international organizations as the Church World Service (CWS), Lutheran World Service (LWS), International Cooperation for Development and Solidarity (CIDSE), and Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) in the fields of communications, transport and agriculture, urban development, public health and social welfare.

With foreign investaments, the city has started upgrading the "Cambodian Motel", the "Danasfood" instant noodle factory and a rattan-processing workshop.

The city has also signed a contract with a foreign company on the modernisation of the "Khemara" municipal hotel.

Sihanouk Interviewed on Thai Role in Settlement

PM1203165090 Paris LIBERATION in French 7 Mar 90 p 26

[Interview with former Cambodian sovereign Norodom Sihanouk by Patrick Sabatier in Sereipheap—date not given]

[Text] [Sabatier] The recent Jakarta meeting was a failure. What are the prospects for peace in Cambodia?

[Sihanouk] We need a new peace process. The root of the Cambodian problem is in fact the confrontation between China and Vietnam. If Thailand and ASEAN could bring China and Vietnam together in negotiations, and if a compromise were found through discreet and informal meetings in Bangkok, none of the Cambodian factions would be able to oppose it. I am currently counting on Thailand. It can cut off the resistance's supplies and can persuade Hanoi to stop helping Hun Sen. Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng told me that the Chinese and Vietnamese are restoring their friendship but that there cannot be full normalization until the Cambodian problem is solved.... We must help bring the viewpoints of Beijing and Hanoi closer together. Otherwise we will never have a settlement!

[Sabatier] Were your recent discussions with Hun Sen (prime minister of the pro-Vietnamese government) positive?

[Sihanouk] We are only actors. I am an old hand. Hun Sen is learning the job. Our discussions will have no real substance while the Vietnamese and the Khmer Rouge seek a military victory. However, I agree to another meeting with Hun Sen in Thailand as soon as he proposes it....

[Sabatier] You are still calling for the departure of the Vietnamese despite the withdrawal of Hanoi's troops last September. Why?

[Sihanouk] It is an open secret that since November new troops, around 20,000 men, have returned to Cambodia. They have taken over the defense of Battambang, Sisophon, Siem Reap and, above all, the Angkor complex. But I have heard it said that Hanoi wants to withdraw those troops before the rainy season, which the Vietnamese fear. The West is only worried about this military presence, but Vietnamese colonization is plundering our resources, it has allowed a million colonists to be installed, has altered the line of the borders, and annexed some islands like Poulo Wai [name as published]. We are fighting for our survival.

[Sabatier] Why are you insisting on Khmer Rouge participation in government, and why are you still their ally?

[Sihanouk] The Khmer Rouge cannot regain power and they are not stupid enough to restart the 1975-1978 madness. Vietnam would see that as a golden opportunity to reoccupy Cambodia, with general approval. What the Western countries also disregard is that a growing number of Cambodians support them. They think that without them we have no chance of restoring the country's independence. The Khmer Rouge are killers, but they are also extreme nationalists who want Cambodia for the Cambodians. They are becoming the symbol of the struggle against Vietnamese colonialism. They no longer even fear possible free elections. In the vast territory which they control, the people will hesitate to vote against them, out of fear or out of conviction. Time is on their side. The West, by rejecting my proposals for a quadripartite government, is unintentionally supporting them.... It is possible to get rid of the Khmer Rouge in the columns of newspapers but not in Cambodia....

Sihanouk on Neutral Refugee Camps, Peace Talks

BK1303011990 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 13 Mar 90 p 2

[Text] The proposal to set up neutral camps for displaced Cambodians will not handicap the Khmer resistance or speed an end to the conflict, Cambodian Resistance president Prince Norodom Sihanouk said yesterday. The wish of the European Community and others to oust the resistance coalition from the United Nations, rather than help advance peace, would spur the three guerrilla armies to greater efforts for "national liberation," he said. These countries effectively would "throw oil on the fire, not water," said the prince, who arrived in Bangkok from Cambodia yesterday and is scheduled to leave for Beijing tomorrow.

The prince was replying in writing to questions submitted by the BANGKOK POST, which covered Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan's proposal for neutral camps, diplomatic developments and prospects on the battlefield. On the latter, Prince Sihanouk said Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan is now less optimistic about the guerrillas' chances of taking Battambang and Siem Reap soon because of the presence of elite Vietnamese troops and special forces in both strategic towns. On General Chatchai's proposal to put into neutral

UN-run camps, the estimated 300,000 displaced Cambodians now living in sites separately administered by resistance groups, the prince rejected a widely-held view that it would sap the guerrillas' political and military strength. "It is possible that efforts are made to handicap the Khmer resistance," Prince Sihanouk said. "But as far as the Khmer Rouge, on the one hand, and the Sihanoukian National Army, on the other, are concerned, the closure of our camps in Thailand will not handicap us. "This closure will not make any contribution to facilitate the settlement of the Cambodian problem or to hasten the end of the war in Cambodia."

"Before the closure takes place, the Khmer Rouge will undoubtedly succeed to bring inside Cambodia all compatriates living in its camps in Thailand," he said. The guerrillas, widely condemned for excesses while in power from 1975 to 1979, are reported to have moved thousands of people into strategic zones inside Cambodia over the past few months. They are believed capable of moving more masses within a short time should Thailand decide to set up neutral camps.

On the diplomatic front, the prince was generally pessimistic about peace initiatives outside the region, although he has yet to receive a positive response on his proposal for Thailand to host peace talks between China, Vietnam, ASEAN and the four Cambodian factions. The five permanent members of the UN Security Council, now holding a third round of consultations on Cambodia in Paris, "probably will not succeed to obtain a better outcome" than the Paris International Conference on Cambodia last August or the recent Informal Meeting on Cambodia in Jakarta, he said. Both previous meetings ended inconclusively, the first hitting deadlock on power-sharing, the latest failing to make headway on the substance of an enhanced UN role during the interim period.

Prince Sihanouk was equally pessimistic about prospects of peace-making contributions from China and the Soviet Union, backers of chief protagonists in the 11-year conflict. "The People's Republic of China will always support the Khmer Rouge and the USSR will always support Hun Sen's regime (in Phnom Penh)," the prince said. "I do not see how people can imagine an understanding between Beijing and Moscow to put an end to the deadly duel between the pro-Chinese Khmer Rouge and the pro-USSR-Vietnam Khmer Rouge." Prince Sihanouk has repeatedly said leading members of the Phnom Penh Government were once Khmer Rouge officers.

ANS Claims Kompong Thom 'Stronghold' Captured

BK1303014590 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 13 Mar 90 p 2

[Text] Forces loyal to Prince Norodom Sihanouk yesterday claimed they captured the "enemy stronghold" of Krayea and liberated nine villages in Kompong Thom Province on Sunday [11 March]. A combined force of three battalions of the Sihanoukist National Army (ANS) also claimed to have killed some 50 "enemies on the spot," wounded some 73 others and took 42 prisoners, including two battalion commanders.

The statement released yesterday by the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia claimed a number of weapons and ammunitions were seized. "Our forces overran and took control of the enemy stronghold after 30 minutes of fighting," the statement claimed. The same statement further claimed two other ANS battalions attacked three sub-districts in Varin District of Siem Reap Province and "completely liberated" nine villages on Sunday. It said the "enemies" fled the battlefield in the afternoon and ANS could seize a number of arms and ammunitions.

Meanwhile an ANS intelligence report released yesterday claimed that Vietnamese troops have been back into Cambodia. "Without these Vietnamese elite forces which are the backbone of the depleted Hun Sen army, the Phnom Penh forces would not have been able to invade Svay Chek, Treng near Pailin, and other areas," it said. Vietnamese forces in 40 army trucks allegedly reached Sisophon on March 4 and are spreading along National Road No. 6 while some 15,000 regular troops were sent to Phnom Penh earlier by truck on February 24. The report claimed "the Vietnamese enemies and its puppets planned to start a large military offensive against the resistance on March 15 in the western part of Cambodia, mainly in Battambang and Oddar Meanchey Provinces."

Son Sann Marks KPNLAF Founding Anniversary

BK0503110190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 5 Mar 90

[KPNLF President Son Sann's 5 March message marking the 11th founding anniversary of the Khmer People's National Liberation Armed Forces—read by Ieng Muli, secretary general of the KPNLF Executive Committee]

[Text] My respects to the Buddhist clergy; beloved combatants of the Khmer People's National Liberation Armed Forces [KPNLAF]; dear compatriots:

Today, 5 March, is the founding anniversary of the KPNLAF. It was on this day that several Cambodian resistance groups declared the founding of the KPNLAF and appealed to me to lead the struggle for national liberation. After receiving the appeal of the patriotic combatants, I examined the situation from all angles before deciding to serve our resistance movement for national liberation.

I have always been a devout Buddhist, and I have never wielded a gun in my life. But touched by the pure spirit of patriotism of these freedom fighters, I decided to join the national liberation movement. When we declared the founding of the KPNLAF, the groups of freedom fighters

handed me full power to head the struggle until final victory, that is, until the liberation of our motherland.

All of us have joined hands and have endured all obstacles. We have experienced shortages because, unlike the Khmer communists and the Vietnamese aggressors who enjoy full superpower backing, we have not received sufficient aid. However, from one stage to another we have won successive victories, making the prestige of our front known far and wide and winning the recognition and trust of our people who regard us as a front capable of liberating the country and bringing prosperity to the nation. This is because our combatants are highly motivated in the struggle, are well-disciplined, and love, respect, serve, assist, and defend our people. Thanks to the successes of the KPNLAF, our Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] has been considered by the enemies as a major obstacle that has frustrated their designs to occupy Cambodian territory and prolong their communist-style dictatorial rule in Cambodia.

For this reason, the enemies have been trying to create all kinds of crises to weaken our front. The enemies have sent their agents to sabotage the camps of our civilian population and, in disguise, to commit criminal human rights violations, thus harming the good name of the KPNLF. However, thanks to the lofty spirit of patriotism of our combatants and in support of our compatriots and people, the KPNLAF is carrying out its mission with success. In 1989 we liberated several territorial zones and tens of thousands of people. With the cooperation of leading civilian cadres, our KPNLAF has organized and arranged these liberated zones into peaceful, orderly refuges permeated with freedom and justice for innocent Cambodian people who have suffered so much under the dictatorial communist rule for nearly two decades.

The successful outcome of these enterprises was most evident at a time when I was fortunate enough to personally visit the liberated zones. I take this opportunity to once again express praises and thanks to the leaders of our KPNLAF, especially the general commander of the 3d Operational Zone and his colleagues, and all other responsible civilian authorities for their efforts to make my historic visit possible. Thanks to the correct arrangements and because our combatants respect the principles of the front, our armed forces have received staunch support from the people it has liberated. These people have volunteered to carry out the security work inside their villages and communes. In so doing, they have enabled the KPNLAF to advance toward liberating other areas.

In my capacity as president of the KPNLF, I am responsible for all combatants. In this capacity, I recognize all KPNLAF combatants as my own combatants both at war and in peace. In this capacity, I once again make it clear that I will not forgive any combatant who does not respect discipline and who commits any human rights violations. I do not recognize combatants who refuse to reform themselves; who refuse to respect the principles of the KPNLF, that is, refuse to assist, serve, and protect the people; who refuse to observe discipline; and who refuse to respect human rights. I am firmly convinced that in the not too distant future our country will have peace again. At that time, I will need combatants who are loyal to the front, who strictly observe discipline, and who respect our principles so they can help me rebuild the country both in the military and civilian fields. On this most solemn occasion, I wish all KPNLAF combatants who are fighting for the freedom and happiness of the Cambodian population, citizens, and people, successes on all battlefields and over all enemies, whether they are near or far.

Long live the KPNLAF!
Long live the KPNLF!
Long live the Khmer people!

Indonesia

Military Lashes Foreign Critics Over Executions

BK1303064290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0603 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Jakarta, March 13 (AFP)—The Indonesian military Tuesday [13 March] struck back at foreign critics of the executions of former communists, accusing them of double standards and lacking a sense of "fair play" in human rights' judgments.

Defending the recent executions of four former presidential guards as an internal affair, the ANGKATAN BERSENJATA (ARMED FORCES) Daily said the same critics were silent when the United States violated international law and human rights by invading Panama and arresting strongman General Antonio Noriega. "It is clear that in their protests, they used two different measurements... Where is their sense of fair play?" The daily said in a lengthy commentary, following similar remarks by Armed Forces Chief General Try Sutrisno Saturday.

Observers said the message was apparently aimed at the European Economic Community which last week appealed to Jakarta to stop the executions of prisoners sentenced to death for involvement in a communist coup attempt 25 years ago, after six were sent to the firing squad in the past three months.

The Netherlands, Indonesia's former colonial rulers, and West Germany have asked for an explanation. The Hague has also announced plans to freeze 13 million dollars in aid to Jakarta in response to the mid-February executions of the four presidential guards. London-based Amnesty International Friday also urged President Suharto not to carry out death sentences on six prisoners after reports that their executions were imminent.

Referring to the February executions, ANGKATAN BERSENJATA said these were "our own internal affairs and this is a question of our sovereignty and our independence."

"They have a legal basis which no country can alter," it added, in an apparent reference to foreign criticism that the executions were carried out on men who had already spent more than 20 years in jail. "Indonesia wants to foster friendly ties with other countries... But we do not want outsiders to meddle in our affairs," it said, echoing a longstanding Indonesian position.

Western diplomatic sources said here Tuesday they expected other countries to make further representations over the executions to the Indonesian authorities.

ANGKATAN BERSENJATA also defended the use of capital punishment in Indonesia and other non-communist Southeast Asian nations to prevent the recurrence of rebellion. Indonesia had "the most traumatic experience" and "many lives were lost" following two communist rebellions, in 1948 and in 1965, it said.

The Communist Party of Indonesia (PKI), at the time Asia's second largest after China, was banned in March 1966 in the bloody aftermath of the coup which saw 500,000 people killed and more than a million arrested across the country.

Since 1985, 23 prisoners linked to the coup have been executed, leaving eight still on death row.

Gen Sutrisno Defends Executions

BK1003124590 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1200 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] General Try Sutrisno, commander of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia [ABRI], has reaffirmed that other countries have no right to dictate to Indonesia. Thus, not a single country in the world can undermine the decisions made by the Indonesian Government.

The ABRI commander made the remarks before reporters in Jakarta today following the installation of the chief of staff of the Indonesian Air Force.

Regarding protests by several countries over the execution of several former ABRI members involved in the 1965 rebellion launched by the 30 September Movement of the Indonesian Communist Party, Gen Try Sutrisno said that no external power could dictate to Indonesia.

Suharto Calls for Sale of Equity to Cooperatives

BK0803104390 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 5 Mar 90 pp 1, 8

[Excerpts] Jakarta, KOMPAS—President Suharto invited 31 leading Indonesian businessmen to his Tapos ranch on Sunday [4 March]. The head of state directly called on them to support government economic policy by selling 25 percent of their company's equity to the cooperatives as an effort to promote income distribution to those who are less well-off.

By selling their equity to the cooperatives, the president said, they can help prevent social gaps and jealousy while at the same time nipping in the bud any social upheaval. "If you do not sell the equity shares, social unrest will arise, and if social unrest is allowed to go unchecked, social upheaval will follow. Such a situation will definitely benefit none of us and will not safeguard and facilitate national development," the head of state said.

The president reminded the businessmen that their business successes were not simply due to their personal endeavors, but also constituted the fruits of the entire Indonesian people's struggle. These successes must be transformed into the ideals of the nation's struggle to achieve a just and prosperous society as a means to put the Pancasila ideology into practice.

The leading businessmen invited to the ranch included Sudono Salim, (Liem Sioe Liong), Sudwikatmono, William Suryajaya, Ibrahim Risyad, Ciputra, Sofyan Wanandi, (Lim Bian Koen), Syamsul Nursalim, Suhargo Gondokusumo, Eka Cipta Wijaya, and his son Indra Wijaya.

Besides listening to the president's remarks, the businessmen also asked questions and gave their views to the president.

The president said the sale of 25 percent of company equity to cooperatives can be carried out in a gradual way. Having elaborated on possible ways for the cooperatives to buy the equity, the president warned that the government might enact laws to force the sale of equity to cooperatives. [passage omitted]

The head of state also said the list of companies or cooperatives that should take part in the equity ownership may cause some problems. In this case, the government will extend its help by drawing up a list of financially sound cooperatives. At the same time, big corporations with excellent economic performance may register with the coordinating minister for economics, finance, industry, and development supervision, who will in turn assign an agency to evaluate their performance.

During the occasion, businessman Liem Sioe Liong called for a gradual way to sell equity to cooperatives instead of a flat 25 percent of a company's total equity. He cited an example from his own company, the Indocement Limited Co., which is worth 6 trillion rupiah. If cooperatives are to get even one percent of his company's worth, the amount will stand at 60 billion rupiah. The president replied that the percentage of equity to be sold is up to the discretion of each company. [passage omitted]

Economist Recommends Easing Debt Service Burden

BK0703111190 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 21 Feb 90 p 4

[Text] Jakarta (JP): Noted economist Syahrir said here yesterday that the government should launch efforts to reduce its debt service burden, which this fiscal year amounted to over a half of the country's total routine expenditure.

"Our debt amortization and interest payments reached Rp [Rupiah] 12.09 trillion (US$6.7 billion) this fiscal year, or 51.6 percent of our total routine expenditure of Rp 23.44 trillion," Syahrir said in a seminar on pension fund management at the Jakarta Hilton International Hotel. The managing director of the Institute for Economic and Financial Research said that the debt service burden would remain quite high in the coming years although the level might not be as high as in the current year. "Therefore, the government should do something to reduce this burden to provide enough of a 'breathing period' to facilitate a healthier growth of the country's economy," Syahrir said.

He told newsmen afterwards that he did not suggest that the government reschedule its debts or breach the charter of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). "But, we need to negotiate with our creditors for any other possible ways to ease our debt repayment burden," he said, adding that several solutions mentioned in the Brady Plan might also be tried.

"The Brady Plan does not propose debt rescheduling, but how a country can pay its debt in a longer period of time or how to pay the debt at the same interest rates but on easier terms," he added.

Syahrir said that the government currently needed a lot of funds to support its development programs. A huge debt service would result in the scarcity of funds to finance such programs.

"The Philippines and Mexico have been able to get easier debt service terms. We should closely monitor these developments," he said. Indonesia, Syahrir said, had always acted as a 'good boy' in servicing its debt. "We have no intention of not meeting our debt service. What we need is just easier debt repayment terms to give us time to improve the economy," he said. He praised government's debt service management as good so far.

The economist further said that the government would have to adopt new deregulatory measures in the future to maintain a rapid pace of economic growth. The investment needs for Indonesian economic development would increase as a result of the deregualtion in the monetary sectors and the production sector," said Syahrir, who is also a lecturer at the University of Indonesia. "It appears that more efforts are needed to attract foreign investors, either in foreign direct investments or in the capital market," he added.

Indonesia, Syahrir remarked, had an advantage in all these aspects because of its free foreign exchange regime, and the fact that foreign investors were allowed to take part in the capital market and foreign direct investment had a relatively free entry.

Deregulatory measures, according to him, would also be necessary in the bureaucracy, both at the central and regional levels, to meet the expectation of faster services.

He also stressed that Indonesia should step up education and training to provide more skillful human resources for the financial sector. "The reforms in the financial sector have resulted in a lack of management skill to meet the increased activities in the banking sector and the capital market," he said. "This is a very serious problem that we could not take lightly."

The seminar yesterday was organized jointly by The Chase Manhattan Bank and the Jakarta chapter of the Indonesian Economists Association. Other speakers included Managing Director of Chase Manhattan Asia Limited Bruce McKenzie and Vice President, Chase Manhattan Bank Singapore, Teng Jee Hum. Chairman of the Capital Market Executive Agency (Bapepam) Marzuki Usman opened the seminar which was attended by about 50 managers of pension fund foundations.

Editorial Questions 'Relevance' of Khmer Rouge

BK0703150190 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 2 Mar 90 p 6

[Editorial: "Cambodia's Core Problem"]

[Text] It is quite understandable if Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, cochairman of the Paris conference on Cambodia, could hardly hide his disappointment during the final press conference on Thursday morning [1 March] after the Informal Meeting on Cambodia (IMC), which Indonesia hosted, failed to produce tangible results, especially since at the outset he had stated that the meeting's objectives were modest and realistic. It was intended to look into the feasibility of an enhanced United Nations role in that war-torn country by using as a basis for the discussions the Australian proposal submitted by Foreign Minister Gareth Evans last November, and meanwhile elaborated in a set of detailed working papers.

The meeting was also meant as an effort to bridge the divergent positions of the contending parties on the detailed aspects as a further step towards achieving a comprehensive solution.

From that premise the question arises, why then did the meeting fail?

According to Senator Gareth Evan's summing up of the final stages of the IMC before it was closed past midnight, on Wednesday, all the contending parties agreed on the need to involve the UN in the Cambodian peace process. Was the failure perhaps caused by the insistence of Vietnam and the regime of Prime Minister Hun Sen to

include a reference on the "prevention of a recurrence of genocidal policies" (read: the possible return of the Khmer Rouge), and the to-be-expected fierce insistance of the Khmer Rouge representative Khieu Samphan to openly mention the problem of what he referred to as Vietnamese settlers in Cambodia?

Senator Gareth Evans identified those issues as being the only source of disagreement that was of any significance, but which according to him were "essentially peripheral issues.' If, however those issues, which also led to the deadlock of the Paris conference on Cambodia last August, were indeed peripheral and merely caused some "atmospherics", then it would indeed be tragic that the IMC was stranded on such issues after some hopeful signs in the past weeks had made us believe that a negotiated settlement to the Cambodian conflict had become more feasible.

A sober analysis of the IMC, after a temporary disappointment, would however make it clear that the meeting failed because of the core problem of the Cambodian conflict: Who will rule the country? That problem is sometimes referred to in a sort of diplomatic euphemism as "finding an agreed power-sharing formula."

Given the tenacious nature of that core-problem, the IMC is not a waste of diplomatic time, as Michael Leifer of the London School of Economics and Political Science wanted us to believe when he wrote his expose in the INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE recently. In the light of the joint communique signed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Prime Minister Hun Sen last week in Bangkok, the IMC was indeed helpful in sharpening the intransigent position of the Khmer Rouge, precisely because the two other groups in the anti-Phnom Penh resistance coalition, Son Sann's KPNLF [Khmer People's National Liberation Front] and Prince Sihanouk's FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia], have shown a more forthcoming attitude for reaching a compromise as formulated in the meeting's draft record of common understandings.

For the Khmer Rouge—and they are well aware of it—it is quite clear that a compromise on whatever issue that is a component of the Cambodian conflict, will eventually weaken its position to the point of its being reduced to an irrelevant band of marauders. The Khmer Rouge still entertains hopes that its superior military prowess and its ideological obstinacy will enable it to gradually enlarge the territory under its control, which would force the Hun Sen regime to accept a compromise on its terms. That sort of vision, of course, is based on the premise that China will continue to act as its supply master and that Thailand, because of the ambiguity of the Thai military, will still condone the use of its territory as a transit area and fall-back base.

The manner of the IMC's failure should prompt Indonesia and Thailand—which hopefully will enjoy the support of all ASEAN members—to work towards a solution of the Cambodian conflict by gradually reducing the relevance of the Khmer Rouge. This would involve a thorough quantification of this despicable group: the structure of its leadership, its final political goal, its strengths and positions, and its supply sources.

The proposition that in order to establish a legitimate government in Cambodia the Khmer Rouge's participation is essential, contains a contradiction from the outset. The Khmer Rouge cannot be a constructive partner in building a better future for Cambodia. The IMC has clearly demonstrated the validity of this statement, and from that point of view the three-day meeting in Jakarta can be considered not an unfruitful exercise after all.

Laos

Council of Ministers Reports to SPA Session

BK2702060190 Vientiane PASASON in Lao 10 Feb 89 pp 1, 6, 7

[Report from the Council of Ministers on the socioeconomic development plan and budget, presented by Sali Vongkhamsao, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of economy, planning, and finance, to the 1990 Plenary Session of the Supreme People's Assembly in Vientiane on 9 February 1990]

[Text] Respected Presidium,

Respected ladies and gentlemen members of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA],

Beloved and distinguished guests:

I have the great honor of representing the Council of Ministers in presenting a report on the implementation of the 1989 socioeconomic development plan and budget and the orientation and tasks of the 1990 socioeconomic development plan and budget to the plenary session of the SPA.

Part I: The Situation in 1989

Under the guidance and leadership of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee and the Council of Ministers headed by respected and beloved Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, in 1989 the entire party, state, and masses continued to score victories in the tasks of national defense and national construction in accordance with the correct spirit of restructuring by turning attention to the countryside, mountainous regions, and grass roots; broadening economic relations with foreign countries; and upgrading the new economic management mechanisms, aimed at gradually creating a new economic structure as stipulated in the resolution adopted by the Fourth LPRP Congress, the various resolutions adopted by the LPRP Central Committee, and the various decisions and regulations reached by the Council of Ministers. We have overcome numerous difficulties

caused by the adverse effects of natural calamities in the past two consecutive years (1987 and 1988), the acts of subversion and sabotage carried out by the enemy, and our lack of experience. Thanks to our persistent efforts in actively implementing the 1989 plan and budget, we managed to create many new factors and score a number of initial achievements. At the same time, though, we were also faced with some difficulties, shortcomings, and problems which hindered the successes we scored in 1989.

I would like to report to you some outstanding points on the socioeconomic situation in our country as follows:

A. On the Implementation of the Socioeconomic Development Plan

In 1989, our economy continued to develop while revenue collected from national production increased by 18 percent compared to 1988 and the growth of our population increased by 2.7 percent. The state implemented numerous economic policies to create new factors to motivate and boost business production in all economic sectors in the country and to contribute to improving the living conditions of the people.

In the area of agriculture for 1989, our farmers vigorously supported and energetically implemented the policies on the granting of ownership rights for land and wooded forests, the one-price practice, the new agriculture tax, and the planning of family production by the family itself. In addition, our farmers also cleared new land for rice farming; reclaimed waste farmland; carried out terraced, upland, and rotation crop cultivation; invested in purchasing farm machinery and vehicles; and engaged in intensive agriculture, thereby creating a number of model achievements in the production of agricultural goods. Thanks to good weather, the efficiency of their production increased by 19 percent compared to 1988. In certain localities, the efficiency of [rice] production even reached between six and seven metric tons per hectare. The total paddy production output reached 1.4 million metric tons—an increase of 40 percent compared to the previous year. The planting of industrial crops, such as sesame, corn, bean, tobacco, cotton, and other varieties of crops, has become a basic movement of goods production.

In the livestock raising sector, the people were encouraged to raise animals as a fundamental income source. With international assistance, our state continued making investments in building a new irrigation system to irrigate 2,260 hectares of land. After the nationwide forestry conference, wanton exploitation of forests has become restricted and decreased. The foundations of the timber processing export industry were consolidated. In some provinces (such as Luang Prabang and Saravane), projects to find fixed occupations for nomadic people were launched to gradually reduce slash-and-burn crop cultivation.

In the industrial field, with cooperation from foreign countries, the state spent an estimated 30 percent of the total investment funds for continued construction of the Se Set Hydroelectric Dam, installation of medium-voltage electricity facilities in Khammouane Province and the Vientiane Plain, conducting a survey on the Nam Theun Hydroelectric Dam project, surveying for fuel oil and natural gas deposits, surveying sites for cement plants in Vangviang and Thakhek areas, mining for precious stones and other ores, and developing and expanding sugar and beer production and the production of other finished products. As a result, the 1989 industrial production output increased by 15 percent compared to 1988.

In the communications field, the state spent 47 percent of the total investment funds for building foundations in this field, primarily for asphalting 65 km of the national highways, including more than 40 km of south and north Highway No. 13, continuing to build Highway No. 8 to the sea in the east, building interprovincial roads, and constructing the Sedon Bridge. All economic sectors have been enlisted to be involved with transport work. It was estimated that in 1989, the volume of goods transportation and circulation increased by six percent and the passenger transport by 18 percent compared to 1988. Particularly in the aviation transport sector, domestic and foreign air transport services were vigorously improved and expanded. A study on the project to build a modern telecommunications network has also been completed in order to ensure efficient telecommunications links within the country and with foreign countries. In 1989, the state invested 5.6 billion kip for building and repairing schools and hospitals, building party schools, acrobatic gymnasiums, living shelters, and other housing enterprises. At the same time, the private sector also invested more than two million kip for building socioeconomic enterprises.

In the internal and foreign trade sector, thanks to the implementation of the policies on the legitimate and free circulation of goods, the one-price practice, and the broadening of markets and the open door concept, the volume of retail goods increased by 42 percent, the value of export goods by 35 percent, and the value of import goods by 48 percent compared to 1988.

Thanks to correct party and state policies on broadening relations and cooperation with foreign countries, in 1989 our country acquired an estimated [U.S.] $187 million gratis aid and loans as funds for building foundations, purchasing import goods with foreign currencies and technical assistance. In addition, we acquired 42,000 metric tons of rice as aid for domestic consumption, equipment for promoting agricultural production, and some monetary aid for solving problems created by the drought in the past year. Since the promulgation of the foreign investment law over one year ago, foreign investors have applied to invest on nearly 200 projects in Laos. Of these, more than 80 of them have already received approval for investments totaling worth more than [U.S.] $70 million.

In the past year, we continued to consolidate, upgrade, and develop the application of the new economic management mechanisms one step further regarding planning of the family economy by farmers, collection of tax and fees, banking and credit work, modification of the organizations of large companies into smaller sizes, and transformation of some state-run enterprises with no productivity to be under the other forms of ownership. Those plans effectively motivated business production and goods circulation and distribution, thus encouraging them to become more vigorous and enthusiastic, further enhancing the positive role and potential of all business services, serving to increase the number of new and effective ways of making livelihood, and contributing to improving the living conditions of the laboring people.

Work in the education, public health, information, and cultural fields was further consolidated and stepped up in the past year. The number of formal students increased by 16,000 compared to the previous year and comprised 18 percent of the total population of the country. The number of medical doctors increased by 600 compared to 1988. The spreading of dengue and diarrhea epidemics were checked while medical fees were also experimentally charged at some hospitals. Information and cultural work began to be consolidated. In addition, methods to eliminate social vices and other negative aspects of society were also implemented in the initial stage.

In the past year, national defense and public security maintenance work was also consolidated and increased along the line of promoting national defense and public security maintenance among the entire masses. We managed to smash and thwart the enemy's subversive schemes on various occasions, thereby securely safeguarding the territory and sovereignty of our country and the property and work of our people. At the same time, the people of Saravane Province managed to annihilate another batch of exiled Vietnamese reactionaries—the fourth group of those elements to infiltrate our country in the past three years.

The year 1989 was one in which we increased foreign affairs and international relations work. We managed to score many victories, especially in continuing to strengthen our militant solidarity and special relations with Vietnam and Cambodia and our all-around relations and cooperation with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, in restoring normal relations with the PRC, in continuing to promote mutual understanding with Thailand, and in developing relations and cooperation with Japan and France when Council of Ministers Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan paid historic visits to these two countries. At the same time, we continued to improve our relations with and to solicit assistance from international organizations and countries throughout the world, in accordance with the party's foreign policy of peace, independence, and friendship. We adopted a correct stand on the rapid, confusing changes in the international situation, especially the restructuring occurring in socialist countries. The victories scored in this regard have further raised the position and role of our country and our party and state in the international arena and have positively contributed to the causes of national defense, national construction, and restructuring in our country.

In the past year we mobilized and promoted the work of turning to the grass roots to vigorously upgrade and consolidate the popular democratic regime throughout the country. We carried out this work on an experimental basis in Luang Prabang and Sayaboury Provinces. As a result, positive changes have been made in many fields at the grass-roots level—production has been promoted, people's living conditions have been improved, public security and order have been consolidated and increased, and people have come to more profoundly appreciate and identify with the party's line, policy, and plans. The people actively participated in electing people's council representatives at various levels, upgrading the working methods of the people's councils and administration at each level, and contributing opinions on the performances of cadres and party members. This was a demonstration of genuinely promoting democracy and the people's right to mastership, thereby making the people joyous and increasing their confidence in the party and the new regime.

In 1989, we continued to upgrade and reorganize organizational apparatuses in order to make them simple and compact by reducing bureaucratic red tape and clearly separating the macro and micro management roles. In doing this, the number of cadres attached to administrative apparatuses decreased by eight percent when compared to 1988. Attention was paid to training and upgrading cadres, especially young ones. Ideological work was increased among cadres and party members. A number of incompetent and unqualified cadres were revitalized. Training and upgrading cadres in many localities was very effective, using the method of turning to the grass roots and organizing the actual execution of work and changing thinking to go along with the spirit of restructuring.

B. On Organizing Implementation of the 1989 State Budget

In 1989, revenue collection for the state budget year surpassed the projected budget outlined in the SPA-approved budget plan by 14 percent. This means that total revenue for the budget reached 128 billion kip. The primary domestic source of budget revenue was import and export duties and business taxes. As for income derived from foreign sources, which was used to make up for budget deficits, this came in two forms—one, equipment and technical assistance for various projects to build the grass roots and two, material goods aid and foreign currencies.

Actual spending for 1989 amounted to 123 billion kip, which was about nine percent less than projected. Of

this, 49 percent of the budget was used to build foundations, 18 percent was used for salaries, subsidies, pensions, and other military obligations specified in the policy, 26 percent was used for administrative and technical work, and seven percent was used for repayment of foreign debts and miscellaneous expenses.

The national budget's revenue and expenditure figures clearly show that the state budget was fundamentally balanced by the acquisition of funds from foreign capital sources to offset deficits. In 1989, the central budget helped offset the local budget deficits with a fund of approximately 3.6 billion kip, which was used largely to pay the salaries of cadres, soldiers, and policemen working in the countryside. All in all, the 1989 state budget began to move toward the new mechanisms with a clear-cut separation of the two management roles between the state budget and the state enterprises' finance sector. The state concentrated its investment on building material and technical foundations, promoting goods production and circulation, and broadening goods-monetary relations. At the same time, it paid salaries entirely in cash and increased subsidies for living allowances. The important thing is that the budget was closely related to and adjusted to be in harmony with plans and foreign assistance and cooperation. That is why many aspects of the 1989 socioeconomic plan were fulfilled as expected.

The primary reasons we were able to score the initial victories and successes are as follows:

—The party's cause of restructuring is correct, conforms to our country's reality, reflects our multiethnic people's aspirations and needs, and is compatible with the trend of the epoch. At the same time, our party is always alert in providing guidance and leadership that conforms to reality and promptly draws lessons from and upgrades the line.

—The unity of the entire party, state, and masses, which constitutes a fine tradition of our nation and has been consistently consolidated and strengthened on the basis of the party's correct line. Lao people of all strata, sectors, and ethnic groups have become more confident in the party's leadership, support and follow the party, and exert efforts to positively contribute to the cause of restructuring and to defend and build the country.

—The cause of restructuring in the country and the party's correct foreign policy and broadening of cooperation and relations with the international community have created favorable conditions for us to gain sympathy, support, assistance, and cooperation from foreign countries, thereby increasing our consolidated strength in organizing the implementation of the 1989 plan and budget.

Respected personages:

With these achievements, it can be seen that there remain numerous shortcomings and limitations in organizing implementation of the state plan and budget, some of which are as follows:

—Generally speaking, production in the agricultural, forestry, and industrial fields remains slow and unstable. Emphasis is only placed on horizontal expansion, little attention is paid to applying science and technology, investment lacks clear-cut objectives, and detailed programs for each type of goods and each locality are lacking. Particularly, there has been no concentration on creating techno-economic groups [kum setthakit-theknik]. Moreover, work productivity and production efficiency is not high. Many branches have failed to regard agricultural production as the number one battlefront, to vigorously turn to the countryside and go up to the mountainous regions, and to appreciate the party's concept on developing and turning all-around agriculture into goods production by beginning with each farming family, with the granting of land and forests, and with a two-way service system so attention can be paid to processing agricultural products. The levels of forest management are not yet effectively divided. As a result, forests in some areas still face wanton destruction. The number of sawmills and plank processing workshops continues to multiply too rapidly. Industrial production still faces difficulties, such as obsolete vehicles and equipment, backward technology, a lack of raw materials and markets, and low-quality products. As a result, many industrial enterprises are able to utilize only 40-50 percent of their production potential. Proper attention has not been paid to carrying out handicraft work. A large number of inefficient state-run enterprises have not yet been revitalized.

—In implementing the policy on free and legitimate goods circulation, the state has not yet concentrated efforts on controlling wholesale trading through the various forms of state capitalism. As a result, it has not been able to concentrate efforts on promoting production through the two-way service system and to manage and supervise the illegal activities of some economic sectors. At the same time, it has not been able to genuinely take the initiative to gradually balance imports and exports by vigorously increasing export work and linking imports with exports. Efforts to carry out transport and communications work still focus on expanding national highways while less attention is paid to expanding the communications network in the countryside and mountainous regions and to repairing and maintaining roads. In addition, the state lacks detailed measures to organize implementation of the motto: "The state and people help each other carry out work."

—Finance and monetary work is still plagued with numerous negative phenomena and is unable to underwrite itself with revenue sources from within the country. It is heavily dependent on foreign assistance and loans. The state still has to shoulder a heavy burden

of various types of spending in society—a practice in accordance with the old concept—which is far beyond its level of capability. This practice is the fundamental cause of consistent budget deficits. At the same time, the management of revenue sources and expenditures has not been properly carried out. Extravagant spending and pilferage remain rampant.

—Economic relations with foreign countries were not linked to investment for building the economic structure within the country. Our ability to appreciate, manage, and utilize foreign economic relations remained limited and lacked the centralized and unified characteristics. No serious efforts were made to develop production within the country. Weaknesses remained for exploitation by the enemy and bad elements.

—Contents, forms, and methods of movement by the information, newspaper, and arts and cultural branches were characterized by delays and backwardness, and have not yet become sharp tools for the struggle on the cultural, ideological, educational, and public health fronts. In short, these branches have not yet fully moved toward adopting new methods in a clear-cut manner.

The causes of these difficulties, problems, and shortcomings possessed both objective and subjective aspects. These aspects are as follows:

—The subjective causes include an extremely low level of the socioeconomic foundations in our country and the adverse effects created by natural calamities and subversive acts carried out by the enemy and bad elements. At the same time, our experience in management work was very limited.

—The objective causes remained fundamental ones, in particular the transformation of the party's line, policy, and plans on restructuring into comprehensive detailed programs and regulations continued to be put off. Many sectors have not yet clearly defined the contents of restructuring; they still mix together old and new contents. Coordination and cooperation between the various sectors, between the localities and the center, and between the socioeconomic and the national defense and public security branches were not yet effectively carried out, resulting in a lack of efficiency in organization. Work on upgrading organizational apparatuses has also been delayed, resulting in a lack of effectiveness and timeliness in guidance and control by the leadership at various levels. At the same time, work in upgrading and training cadres, especially training of key cadres, still lacks detailed plans in accordance with the new concept.

Therefore, we must continue striving to resolve all these primary causes to more profoundly create an atmosphere for development and restructuring in the coming years.

Part II : On the Orientation and Duties of the 1990 Socioeconomic Plan and State Budget

Respected personages:

We have entered the year 1990 at a time when the international situation has changed in a confusing manner. The enemy has seized this opportunity to exploit numerous prevailing shortcomings in our country to oppose, subvert, and undermine us through various means, ranging from trying to effect a peaceful change to creating disturbances and preparing a rebellion to topple the new regime. Nonetheless, we are blessed with many fundamental and favorable conditions. The direction we are taking in our restructuring work is correct. Our people have maintained a tradition of national unity, national concord, and patriotism; they love the new regime; and they consistently follow the party. We also possess rich natural resources and a great potential in many economic sectors. Moreover, we have received sympathy and active support, assistance, and cooperation from many foreign countries.

Starting from this situation and these circumstances, our overall orientation and tasks in 1990 are as follows: The entire party, state, and people must enhance the tradition of patriotism and a sense of revolutionary vigilance; increase consolidation of unity among the multiethnic people; strictly adhere to the cause of restructuring on the basis of the six principles outlined in the eighth resolution of the party Central Committee; persist in fulfilling all fundamental tasks outlined at the fourth party congress; continue effecting new changes in the state management; promote democracy within the party, state, and entire society; forge unification at higher levels as well as cohesion and intimacy between the party and people; consolidate a sense of loyalty, joy, and elation among cadres, party members, and people; overcome all difficulties and trials in the new situation; continue to firmly advance; and effectively make preparations to convene the fifth party congress.

A: On the Orientation and Duties of the 1990 Socioeconomic Development Plan

In order to translate into practice the resolution adopted at the ninth plenary session of the fourth party Central Committee, in 1990 we must concentrate efforts on fulfilling the following fundamental tasks:

—In the production sphere, we must pay attention to promoting comprehensive and intensive agriculture to solve the food shortage problem and produce goods for export. We must strive to produce some 1.8 million metric tons of paddy this year, continue to encourage people to raise livestock as a primary crop, set up specific economic zones for planting crops and industrial trees, establish economic-technical groups [koum setthakit-teknik] in the countryside to study and implement development projects and to utilize forest resources in a comprehensive manner, and continue carrying out programs to find vocations for

ethnic people to restrict slash-and-burn crop cultivation. In the industrial sector, we must set measures to increase production efficiency of all existing factories and promote and develop small industry and handicraft production.

—We must continue building the needed infrastructure [khong pakop khong lang]. Particularly, we must repair Highway No. 13 and construct Highway No. 8 and other roads to rural and mountainous areas, and divert some funds to set up economic-technical groups in ethnic minority regions, western border areas, and strategic rear line areas in order to combine economic construction with national defense and public security maintenance work. In building foundations, we must intensively utilize the various enterprises which have already been established, the repair enterprises, and all projects which are being implemented with foreign cooperation, for example those projects in the communications, irrigation, and hydroelectric spheres.

—In the field of trading, we must pay attention to increasing wholesale and import-export enterprises, extending trade networks into the countryside and mountainous regions to increase production in the country, finding more markets, studying and applying the one-price concept, promoting production of agricultural goods for export, and creating sources for strategic goods, such as rice and fuel oil, to stabilize prices and for use when required.

—We must continue to acquire and utilize foreign capital for investing in building foundations, for acquiring equipment and technical assistance for various development projects, for purchasing import goods, and for balancing the state budget with foreign currencies. We must create extremely favorable conditions to attract foreigners to invest in various branches and services in our country. At the same time, we must set realistic detailed measures to increase the management of capital derived from foreign sources in a centralized, unified, and efficient manner.

—In the cultural and social field, we must raise the quality of education, public health, information, and cultural work through various detailed measures. At the same time, we must try to acquire assistance from the international community and mobilize the people to make systematic contributions. We must increase investment with specific purposes and at an appropriate level from the state budget. Efforts must be made to effectively improve the living conditions of cadres, state employees, and the Armed Forces and to solve other social problems to create an atmosphere of justice, purity, and cleanliness in our society.

—The administration at each level and mass organizations in each locality must organize bodies and adopt a policy to look after disabled persons, the families of people who have sacrificed their lives for the country, the families of soldiers and policemen, pensioned cadres, and the families of those who have contributed to the revolution.

—To ensure that the implementation of the orientation of the socioeconomic development plan is fruitful, we must try to do all we can to link the budget this year to and make it serve the plan.

B. On the Draft State Budget for 1990

The orientation of the draft budget this year is aimed at linking the budget with the plan in a firmly balanced manner in order to create favorable conditions for expanding business production and stabilizing prices and monetary exchange rates, thereby contributing to improving the living conditions of the people one step further and creating favorable conditions for broadening economic relations and cooperation with foreign countries.

The new concept of the budget is to regard its service to the political and social tasks as its primary objective, aimed at ensuring normal functioning of state apparatuses entrusted with the administrative and management tasks. The rest of the budget will be spent in carrying out economic development, which begins by using it to meet necessary and justified expenses in an attempt to locate revenue sources, to create a balance between revenue and the budget along the direction that stipulates that the budget must be spent only for acquiring more revenue. Expenditure must be linked to revenue, and benefits linked to obligations, scope of rights, and responsibilities.

On the basis of this spirit, I would like to propose the draft state budget for 1990 as follows:

—The projected amount of revenue for the nationwide budget is 153.6 billion kip—an increase of 19 percent compared to 1989. Of this, domestic revenue will increase by 70 percent, primarily from the collection of internal revenues from business enterprises and import-export duties.

—The projected amount of expenditure of the nationwide budget is 153.6 billion kip—an increase of 25 percent compared to 1989. Expenditure will be used, first of all, to pay new-scale salaries, which will be increased by 83 percent compared to the old-scale ones, and to pay for subsidies, living expenses, pensions, and other expenses specified by the state's policy. At the same time, it will also be used to fundamentally ensure the spending in service of the state's administrative apparatuses and the work of turning to the grass roots. zA larger part of expenditure from the budget will be in kip. This year's budget will also ensure that payment of debts be fulfilled and some surplus left for the state.

The expenditure for building foundations with funds from domestic sources will be primarily spent on urgent and necessary enterprises for this year. The various

projects undertaken with funds derived from foreign assistance and loans will continue until completion. Investments will be made to repair and utilize all enterprises that have been built. With regard to enterprises undertaken with funds from domestic sources, it is necessary that we continue operating them, such as building Highway No. 8, repairing a number of national highways, cutting more roads into rural and mountainous regions, setting up economic technical teams in some areas where they are needed, and operating certain other important enterprises.

To ensure that organizing of the implementation of the 1990 socioeconomic development plan and budget is effectively carried out, I would like to present certain measures to the SPA for consideration as follows:

1. Because the plan outlines only the orientation and fundamental duties, in organizing its implementation it is necessary that all services and localities conduct a study of the plan in order to turn it into detailed and well-balanced projects regarding the sources of capital, manpower, technical equipment, auxiliary factors, and various measures to genuinely fulfill the plan's objectives. At the same time, they must assign particular personnel to take charge of each program and must set up a time frame for fulfilling it on the basis that clear-cut contracts be signed.

2. To increase the domestic sources of income for the budget to meet the projected amount, the levels of management and consolidation of tax collection work must divided appropriately. The strength of the people must be utilized in tax collection inspection work. All available sources of income must be sought, including such taxes collected as fees from the registration of cattle, from use of roads, from the registration of vehicles, and others. At the same time, efforts must be made to invest in business production enterprises that are highly efficient through the forms of loans or shares. Fees collected should be loaned to the banks for interest. As for the state enterprises that are operating inefficiently and at a loss, they must be leased out or entirely sold to other economic sectors.

3. The mechanisms for managing the sources of foreign aid funds and loans must be consolidated for higher efficiency to allow them to spend the state budget in a unified and centralized manner in fulfilling the various objectives of the socioeconomic development plan. Contracts must be given to various economic units, departments, and sectors through bidding by giving consideration to their abilities to pay back capital and to fulfill tax obligations to the state budget.

4. All services and localities must spend only the amounts approved by the SPA and allocated by the Council of Ministers to avoid overspending, which will result in creating deficits in the state budget.

5. We must continue moving finance and trading work toward new mechanisms on the basis of the vigorous application of goods-monetary relations and state capitalism. The unified and centralized principle of the state budget must be implemented. At the same time, the levels of management must be more appropriately and clearly divided between the state's and the enterprises' finance work and between the central budget and local budgets. Cooperation and coordination must be increased among the finance, banking, and trading sectors, aimed at extending the goods-monetary relations into all spheres in the foundations of the national economy to make the monetary-finance policy a means for genuinely managing the macroeconomy. The systemic and unified national treasury must established from the center down to the local levels.

6. The setting up and application of the national and business accounting systems must be urgently and simultaneously carried out with the consolidation of finance inspection work.

7. Efforts for turning to the grass roots must be vigorously continued to consolidate the organizing of the state management system at various levels along the direction of being compact but efficient. Management along the vertical and horizontal lines must be coordinated. Planning and finance cadres who possess capability in specialized fields must be trained, upgraded, and assigned to various localities and grass-roots units. The information and statistics reporting system must be improved to possess the qualifications of being clear-cut, prompt, and complete.

All this is the overall assessment of the socioeconomic and budget situation in the past year and the presentation of the draft socioeconomic development plan and state budget for 1990 for study and consideration by the SPA session.

In conclusion, I am convinced that on the basis of the correct line, policy, and plans of the party, with the determination to carry out the restructuring in order to strengthen national defense and construction, with the experience, initiatives, and responsibilities of all the participants at this meeting, it is certain that we will receive suggestions to make the 1990 socioeconomic plan and state budget realistic and effective.

Thai Princess To Pay Friendship Visit 15-22 Mar

BK0903013890 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 9 Mar 90

["Press release from Presidential Office" dated 9 March]

[Text] In response to an invitation of His Excellency Phoumi Vongvichit, acting president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon of the Kingdom of Thailand, will pay a friendship visit to the LPDR from 15 to 22 March. This historic visit will bring about the creation of new conditions for the improvement, establishment, and further strengthening of the friendship relations and close neighborly attachment between the two peoples of Laos and Thailand.

Philippines

More 'Loopholes' in U.S. Aid Package Discovered

HK1303045290 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 13 Mar 90 p 3

[By Chay Florentino]

[Text] More loopholes in the 1988 bases agreement surfaced yesterday, this time in the $41 million food aid component of the package.

Sources at the foreign office said that the Philippine panel led by Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus was "led to believe" that the entire $41 million in food surplus would be given to the Government in the form of grants. The U.S., however, had approved only $22.6 million in grants and $18.4 million in loans to be availed of by the Philippines.

An official who was part of the 1988 negotiations said that although there was no such wording in the actual agreement, they were made to understand that the 41 million food assistance would be in the form of grants. The idea behind this was to enable the Government to sell the surplus commodities—which could include wheat, soybean or powdered milk—and use the proceeds for other purposes.

The source said a Foreign Service Institute publication lists the features of the bases compensation package and mentioned proceeds from the sales of commodities "given as grants under Public Law 480." The same publication was circulated in Washington before the actual signing of the agreement and no objections were heard from the American side, the source added.

Another official tried to explain the U.S. move, saying Washington could at the last minute convert the loans into grants. The initial move to approve $18.4 million in loans was to comply with the U.S. anti-dumping law, he said. This arrangement, however, gives the Philippines no basis for pushing the U.S. to comply with the intent of the negotiations since no mention of grants is made.

Then president Ronald Reagan's letter to Mrs. Aquino only makes mention of a "best efforts" pledge to provide the commodity assistance which was computed as part of the $481 million total pledge for 1990.

Government To Consider ASEAN Views on Bases

HK1203105990 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] President Aquino said that the enemies of democracy are adept at rumormongering but added that they will continue to be disappointed because the people are intelligent and know what is best for the country. The president also called for unity of the people.

[Begin Aquino recording in English, in progress] ...Confident that the Filipino people are intelligent enough and they will know who indeed they can rely on [words indistinct] [end recording]

In another development, the president firmly asserted that the government will not ignore the views of neighboring countries on the military bases issue. She made the statement in view of the exploratory talks which are to begin next month.

Tanny Rodriguez for the details.

[Begin recording] [Rodriguez] In her weekly news conference, the president stressed that national interest will dominate the coming talks.

[Aquino in English] First of all, the matter of U.S. military facilities on our bases will be decided on what is deemed to be the national interest. Well, of course we will also give consideration to what will be the interests of our neighbors in the ASEAN region. So that could also be part of the matters that we will take into consideration, but first and foremost, it is the national interest... [end recording]

Envoy 'Reveals' Position on Cambodia to SRV

HK1003072590 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 10 Mar 90 p 7

[By Chay Florentino]

[Text] Ambassador to Vietnam Cipriano Leron is in hot water for disclosing details of the Philippine position on the Cambodian issue to the Vietnamese foreign ministry without prior clearance from the head office.

Diplomatic sources said Leron, in a note verbale, disclosed that any transition government formed in Cambodia "should not imply a deliberate recognition of the Hun Sen government" and should not result in a reduced role for the three-faction Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea [CGDK].

Not even the U.S. or China, which has been identified as a supporter of the Khmer Rouge, has come out openly with a position on the Phnom Penh government.

Sources said Leron was not given instructions by the home office to send a note verbale to the foreign ministry. Posts in the Asia Pacific region were given copies of the Philippine position, which were all marked "secret" and "for your eyes only."

In a telex to the home office last February, Leron failed to explain what had prompted him to send the note. The foreign office sent him another telex asking him to explain the circumstances which led him to reveal the Government's position.

Officials at the foreign office said that the Philippines, in line with the ASEAN position, favors a quadrupartite government in Cambodia and the enhanced role of the United Nations. They maintained that the four factions

of the CGDK should agree among themselves on the issue of power-sharing, as well as define the UN role.

The details of how a quadrupartite government would be set up in Phnom Penh should be best left to the factions to decide, a source said.

Nothing as explicit as what Leron mentioned in the note has been released officially by the Government.

The last informal meeting on Cambodia held in Jakarta ailed after Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan firmly rejected references to his faction's "genocidal practices" in the draft communique.

Council Calls for Direct Trade With SRV

BK0903053390 Manila PNA in English 0346 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Text] Manila, March 9 (OANA/PNA)—The Philippine-Vietnam Trade Council Thursday [8 March] urged both governments to develop a direct shipping route to facilitate countertrade between the two countries and ultimately attain a balance of trade.

Horacio M. Abelardo, Jr, chairman of the council, said that the 6.6 million U.S. dollars trade deficit of the Philippines with Vietnam is a result of indirect trading. Trade with Vietnam at present is conducted through Singapore or Hong Kong which have longer experiences in dealing with Vietnam.

Horacio further suggested that both governments should first subsidize the development of the direct shipping vessel which will carry the products being countertraded by both countries and transfer this function later to the private sector. Both governments however are urged to protect the private sector by granting a sole franchise to operate the trading vessel for a certain period of time.

Abelardo further said that production cost in the Philippines is very high and products are very limited to the detriment of the exporters. Vietnam products, aside from its wide-ranging potentials, are a lot cheaper. He said that trade protocols would "amount to nothing" if the Philippines will not subsidize production cost.

The trade protocol between the two countries for 1990 listed a total of 34 Philippine products to be exported to Vietnam and a total of 31 products of Vietnam available for the Philippines.

Ruling Party To Support Aquino in 1992

HK0903084790 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 9 Mar 90 p 9

[By Beth Pango]

[Text] The ruling Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino [Struggle of Philippine Democrats] (LDP) has decided on President Aquino as its No. 1 choice as standard bearer in the general elections scheduled in 1992.

Rep. Hernando Perez (LDP, Batangas), LDP spokesman, said party leaders arrived at the consensus during an emergency caucus Tuesday night. Should Ms Aquino insist on keeping her vow not to seek another term, the LDP will chose from among its ranks the party's presidential candidate, Perez said.

Most notable among those who attended the party caucus was Rep. Jose Cojuangco, Ms Aquino's younger brother and LDP secretary general. Cojuangco, considered the "godfather of the LDP" was not available for comment.

"If Cory seeks reelection, she will be a very good candidate and we will commit the party behind her," Perez said. "If not, we will put up another candidate." "Our best bet is Cory...nobody else," said Speaker Pro-Tempore Antonio Cuenco (LDP, Cebu) another influential LDP member. "But if she will decline, we will have to get somebody else within the party... We have a lot of good materials," Cuenco added.

Asked if Speaker Ramon V. Mitra is among those they are considering as an alternate candidate for the next presidential election, Cuenco said: "You bet."

Aside from Mitra, other hopefuls in the presidential race in 1992 are Senate President Jovito Salonga, Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos, opposition Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile and Vice-President Salvador Laurel.

Perez said that the LDP has no plan to align with other political parties in the 1992 elections, saying such an alliance is bound to fail. "When an alliance is formed consisting of diverse...conflicting interest, it is bound to fail... Enrile wants to run for president, so is Laurel...a Laurel and Enrile marriage is shaky," Perez said.

Right now, Perez said, the party is preparing the groundwork for the much awaited polls in 1992 and it has already consolidated the organization at the grassroots and barangay level.

Asked about Mitra, Perez said: "He is a party man...he has sacrificed his personal ambition and desire for what is good about the LDP." He did not elaborate. But last year when Mitra resigned as president of LDP, he insinuated that he is not anymore considering to run for presidency in 1992.

Liberal Party To Launch Anticoup Movement

HK1203102790 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 12 Mar 90

[By Cesar Chavez of Mobile Unit No. 9]

[Text] President Corazon Aquino may not be able to finish her term up to 1992 if the Filipino people do not act, given the threats of a new coup d'etat. This was stated by Senate President Jovito Salonga.

[Begin Salonga recording] Cory will not be able to serve until 1992 if the people remain indifferent. [end recording]

Confronted by this threat, the Liberal Party, headed by the senate president, organized the Stand for Democracy Against Coup d'Etat, or Stand for short.

[Begin Salonga recording in English] What is important in Stand is the viability and survival of the democratic government, regardless of the personalities involved. [end recording]

According to Salonga, Stand is a mass organization with a program designed to prevent another coup d'etat. It also has a program to deal with a successful coup d'etat.

Mar Canonigo, deputy secretary general of the Liberal Party, said the principle members of Stand are from the Liberal Party, but the masses in the remote areas of the country will be mobilized to join the movement. He asserted that Stand will oppose any form of coup d'etat, whether it is launched by the military or is initiated from the palace.

Salonga also remarked that President Aquino does not have the wiles of Marcos, hence it would be impossible for an executive or palace coup d'etat to take place in the Philippines.

Stand will be formally launched 25 March at the Araneta Coliseum with almost all members of the Liberal Party expected to attend. They will demand immediate implementation of the Anti-Graft Law and prompt measures to address the poverty issue in order to avoid another coup.

If the opposition has its coalition and the ruling party, Struggle of Philippine Democrats, has its own plans, then the Liberal Party may be said to have Stand.

Cojuangco May Run for 1992 Presidential Race

HK1003073590 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 10 Mar 90 p 1

[By staff member Carol Arguillas]

[Excerpt] Davao City—Estranged presidential cousin Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, who said he was setting aside politics after he slipped unnoticed into the country last November, may yet run for president in 1992.

"Depende," [depends] he told reporters at the airport here yesterday when asked if he would run for president.

Cojuangco, a licensed pilot, flew himself here from Manila in his private plane the other day. He was here to attend the wedding of a friend's son yesterday morning but he left at noon for Bacolod City.

He refused to elaborate but explained to the CHRONICLE that he has not granted media interviews because "I am not yet important; I am not yet a candidate." Asked what he meant, he said, "1992 is still a long way off."

But a radio station Cojuangco owns here told listeners he would run for president. Jun Poras Pala, erstwhile spokesman of the anti-communist Alsa Masa [People's Uprising] and now "Contraforce" supremo, made the announcement over station DXOW.

Cojuangco also neither confirmed nor denied Vice President Salvador Laurel's announcement Wednesday that he had agreed to join the Nacionalista Party [Nationalist Party] (NP) and other opposition groups in a grand coalition against President Aquino and the ruling Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) [Struggle of Philippine Democrats]. Laurel had said he and Cojuangco met Monday night and "agreed in principle" to form a united opposition. "Let's leave Laurel alone with his press release," Cojuangco said. A Cojuangco supporter said the coconut tycoon was irked by Laurel's announcement.

On Nov 25, in his only press conference yet since his return home, Cojuangco had said he would set aside politics and focus on his business interests. But his businessmen friends and political supporters here, notably those allied with Marcos' Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL) [New Society Movement], told the CHRONICLE Cojuangco is the "only person who can unify the opposition."

Mrs Aquino, before she became president, was also seen as the only person who could unify the opposition against Marcos. She has repeatedly said she would not run for reelection. But in a caucus of the LDP Tuesday night, Rep Hernando Perez said Mrs Aquino was the unanimous choice as standard bearer for the 1992 polls.

Several Cojuangco supporters also told the CHRONICLE that the "most acceptable" presidential candidate from the opposition was either Laurel or Sen Juan Ponce Enrile. [passage omitted]

Appointment of Florendo Replacement Revoked

HK1303052790 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 13 Mar 90 pp 1, 6

[Reports from Manny Mogato, Patrick Paez, Noli Cabantug, Bert Castro and Marie Rose Feliciano]

[Excerpt] Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Renato de Villa revoked yesterday the appointment of PC [Phillippine Constabulary] Col. Emiliano Templo as chief of the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] Civil Relations Service to replace the late brigadier general Oscar Florendo.

No official reason was given, but officers said it could have been due to media reports that Templo fired the first shot that triggered a firefight between fugitive Cagayan Gove. Rodolfo Aguinaldo's men and government troopers at the Hotel Delfino in Tuguegarao on March 5.

Florendo was killed during the firefight. Aguinaldo escaped and remained at large. A group of armed Aguinaldo supporters spotted earlier in the coastal town of Sta. Ana had also slipped through a military cordon.

"Aguinaldo's forces are now scattered in smaller groups and they are not capable of creating any trouble," Col. Miguel Fontanilla, PC Region 2 commander, told a group of local officials during a Peace and Order Council meeting here. He also appealed to local officials, mostly Aguinaldo followers, to help the Government restore normalcy in the province.

A new Army commander in Northern Luzon will also be named in a move to consolidate the military forces.

Meanwhile, the PC Criminal Investigation Service [CIS] yesterday said it might not be able to pin down Florendo's killer. The CIS held a reenactment of the shooting in Tuguegarao yesterday. [passage omitted]

Military Raid Fails To Capture Aguinaldo

HK1203091790 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] Government forces raided the town of Gattaran in Cagayan, which is the alleged stronghold of suspended Cagayan Governor Rodolfo Aguinaldo. The raiders were led by Colonel Miguel Fontanilla, Cagayan regional PC [Philippine Constabulary] commander. However, they failed to catch Aguinaldo and his 100-man rebel forces. Three warehouses were raided by government troops in Gattaran and seized a trusted aide of Aginaldo and military paraphernalia. Among the items seized were guns, documents, and books.

Top NPA Leader Surrenders in Nueva Vizcaya

HK1203042390 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 12 Mar 90 p 6

[By Noli Cabantug]

[Text] A top communist leader in Nueva Vizcaya, who believes the Government is sincere in its effort to uplift the plight of the poor, has surrendered to the military in Northern Luzon.

Camp Aguinaldo said yesterday that Alfredo Niquit, alias "Ka [Comrade] Bayan", head of the Regyular Milisiang Bayan [Regular Town Militia] of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army, [CPP-NPA], surrendered Friday to Col. Renato Aguda, Nueva Vizcaya PC-INP [Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police] commander.

Niquit was listed in the Northern Luzon military command order of battle and had a P40,000 prize on his head. He was tagged as one of the five leaders of the Northern Luzon NPA guerilla front.

Niquit also yielded high-powered firearms—an M-60 light machinegun, one AK-47 Russian assault rifle, one .45 caliber pistol, and hundreds of rounds of ammunition.

Niquit was presented by Aguda to Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos during the latter's visit to the PC-INP regional command headquarters in Tuguegarao for a peace and order council meeting. "I am convinced by the sincerity of this Government in its effort to uplift our lives by delivering basic services," Niquit said. During the meeting, Ramos urged Niquit and his comrades to return to the fold of law. Niquit said he used to have some 400 NPA regulars.

NPA Invites Rebel Soldiers To Join Forces

HK0903133990 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 1300 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Text] The New People's Army [NPA] leadership is inviting the rebel soldiers to join forces with the CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines]-NPA. NPA chief Romulo Kintanar addressed the invitation to the rebel forces who, he said, possess moral and (social) commitment against a corrupt system. He criticized some people who took part in the December 1989 failed coup only for financial reasons and a desire to gain power. According to Kintanar, the NPA and the rebel soldiers should temporarily set aside plans for revenge so that they could fight against the government who is supportive of the United States and landlords, but against the Filipinos. Kintanar stated that the communist movement will not die if economic and social problems continue to plague the country.

Captured Rebel Cites List of Grievances

HK1303044990 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 13 Mar 90 p 12

[Text] The suspected pilot of one of the Tora-Tora planes which strafed Camps Aguinaldo and Crame yesterday kept mum about his supposed role in the December putsch, claiming at the outset his decision to invoke the right against self-incrimination due to ongoing pre-trial investigation proceedings with the Armed Forces' Judge Advocate General's Office.

However, in a five-page prepared statement read prior to his testimony, Lt. Col. Oscar Legaspi gave a lengthy explanation on the reasons behind coup d'etat attempts against the Aquino Government as well as measures to prevent the occurrence of similar attempts.

The failures and shortcomings of the Government, he told the Davide Commission in a hearing held at Camp Aguinaldo, as perceived by many members of the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines], are the following:

—selective reconciliation described as "pro-left";
—violations of the Constitution, citing multiple jobs held by government officials and illegal transfer of national funds;

—violation of human rights, including the killing of farmers in the Mendiola rally and treatment of military rebels;
—betrayal of the cause of the EDSA [Epifanio de los Santos Avenue] revolution;
—unequal dispensation of justice, noting that identified communist leaders like Satur Ocampo and Carolina Malay were not handcuffed when presented to the press, while detained 7th Infantry Brigade commander Brig. Gen. Marcelo Blando was, and charging apprehended CPP/NPA [Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army] members with simple rebellion, while rightists are charged with rebellion complexed with murder;

Graft and Corruption
—graft and corruption, with few, mostly rank-and-filers or low-ranking officials only, brought to court and convicted;
—doctrine of command responsibility not followed, since only career officers are charged, while appointees of Pres. Aquino are allegedly not held responsible for their blunders;
—nepotism;
—cronyism;
—arrogance of Mrs. Aquino, particularly calling other government officials names like "langaw" (fly) and "dakilang miron" (great fence-sitter);
—scandals like the Garchitorena land scam, the sunken National Food Administration rice, the P2.8-million check issued by PAGCOR [Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation] to the President, and PC/INP [Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police] vehicle acquisition;
—immorality, like alleged cancellation of passports of relatives of political enemies;
—questionable acquisition and disposition of assets;
—censorship;
—absence of policy;
—wrong priorities/misuse of funds;
—non-delivery of basic services;
—vindictiveness; and
—overindulgence in politics.

He added that "capturing, charging and...convicting the rebels are not the solution" since there will still be many more "even if the death penalty is restored." The AFP, he said, will not run out of "idealistic, professional and nationalistic officers and men who will be willing to risk everything to ensure a brighter future for (our) country."

A former member of the Department of National Defense special study group, Col. Legaspi went underground after he was implicated in the August 1987 coup bid, only to resurface December last year. However, he was apprehended on Dec. 2, along with five other companions in Porac, Pampanga.

Save for that information and some other minor points, he refused to give answers to questions principally centering on his alleged participation in the coup by availing of the right against self-incrimination for 26 times.

Proposed Budget Stands at 282 Billion Pesos

HK0903083690 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 7 Mar 90 pp 1, 17

[By Marcis C. Rodriguez]

[Text] President Aquino said yesterday that the proposed 1991 national budget has been increased from P260.9 billion to P282.3 billion to enable the government to carry out its development programs and improve its services.

At the same time, the President said that the government hopes to limit the budgetary deficit to 0.6 percent of the projected gross national product (GNP) next year, consistent with the medium-term goal of progressively reducing the deficit.

The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Budget Coordinating Committee recommended the increase in the national budget for 1991 which was approved last week by Malacanang.

Mrs. Aquino, however, said that this aggregate budget level is still tentative and asked department heads and all equivalent officials to submit their budgetary proposals to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) not later than May 10. The P282.3-billion proposed budget "is for the purpose of issuing the budget call, a statement of fiscal priorities, targets, and constraints for the preparation of the 1991 budget." She added that the final level will be submitted to Congress on July 23, based on the performance of the economy, agency requests and performance, and revenue collection prospects.

The Cabinet earlier described as "too tight" the proposed budget of P260.9 billion for 1991 and asked the Development Budget Coordinating Committee, an interagency committee of Cabinet and economic officials, to review the revenue target. The earlier proposal, according to DBM Undersecretary Benjamin Diokno, was constrained by low revenue projection of P203.9 billion.

However, with the new proposal, the goal is to bring back the revenue target to about P211.5 billion in accordance with the original fiscal plan through improved tax administration, accelerated privatization of government corporations, and the imposition of new tax measures.

DBM Secretary Guillermo Carague was reported as saying that the P21.4 billion increase in the revised budget ceiling is expected to be achieved by raising the revenue goal to P225.4 billion from the previous P203.9 billion as presented to the Cabinet earlier through improved revenue collection.

Thailand

Caltex Oil Refinery Linked to Cigarettes Issue

BK0803141390 Bangkok LAK THAI in Thai 5-11 Mar 90 p 32

[Article entitled: "Thunderbolt—Construction of Thailand's Fifth Oil Refinery; Bargaining Game With the United States"]

[Text] Businessmen from the fully democratic government of General Chatchai Chunhawan have often been surprised. The latest and most talked about surprise concerns the oil industry. At the last meeting of the National Energy Policy Committee, chaired by General Chatchai Chunhawan, the construction of Thailand's fifth oil refinery was approved. According to the agenda, the meeting was supposed to approve only the construction of the fourth oil refinery plant with a production capacity of 145,000 barrels per day. The Petroleum Policy Subcommittee, with Minister Kon Thappharangsi as chairman, has chosen the Shell Company of Thailand to build the country's fourth refinery at Map Ta Phut in Rayong Province. Meanwhile, the Caltex Oil Company will be allowed to hold shares of 13 or 15 percent in the project, to be decided at a later date.

In fact, the Shell Company of Thailand, with its head office in the Netherlands, does not want the Caltex Oil Company of the United States to have a stake in the fourth refinery. Yet, it had to accept the condition because the Petroleum Policy Subcommittee wanted it that way. Anyway, it came as a big surprise when Finance Minister Pramuan Saphawasu, an old student of Thammasat University, recommended that the fifth refinery be constructed because, after the completion of the fourth refinery in 1994, there will still be a growing demand for oil in the country. He also recommended that the Caltex Company be allowed to invest in the fifth project. The proposal was unanimously approved by Cabinet ministers in the National Energy Policy Committee. The approval came as a big surprise to the oil industry sector because usually such a decision comes after considerable study to ensure that the decision truly benefits the country. This award given to the Caltex Company was definitely politically motivated.

Through these decisions, the government is planning to create a foundation for the oil business because of the trend to float oil prices. The Esso Company has its own refinery. The Petroleum Authority of Thailand depends on products from the Thai Oil Company plant and from the Bang Chak petroleum refinery. Shell and Caltex, meanwhile, have shares in the Thai Oil Company and get supplies from its plant.

With the Shell Company being awarded a concession to construct the fourth refinery, Caltex would be left without a plant of its own. One has to be fair in this business worth billions of dollars. Therefore, approval has been given to Caltex to set up a plant, the fifth in Thailand. The questions of production capacity and the site of the new plant are to be negotiated by the Petroleum Policy Subcommittee. Concerning the fourth project awarded to the Shell Company, the Industry Ministry has been assigned to negotiate the details with the company at a later date.

The concession for the fifth plant was given to Caltex on Thursday [1 March]. The next day there was a special meeting of the Council of Economic Ministers to consider the International Economic Policy Committee's issue on negotiation with the United States over the import of U.S. cigarettes. Government approval for the fifth refinery, awarded to Caltex whose headquarters is in the United States, is part of a bargaining game with the United States.

According to the general guidelines established by General Chatchai Chunhawan for the International Economic Policy Committee, negotiations with the United States on the issue of cigarette imports should be carried out under an overall trading picture. The United States should be informed that the construction by Caltex of a new refinery in Thailand is of greater benefit to the United States than its export of cigarettes, which will only tarnish its image in Thailand. The United States can compensate for its cigarette losses with its investment in the fifth oil refinery. It is still to be seen what the results of this bargaining will be.

Conflict Arises in Siting of Caltex Refinery

BK0903022790 Bangkok THE NATION in English 9 Mar 90 p 13

[Text] Caltex Oil (Thailand) Co Ltd yesterday announced that it may scrap its plan to build the country's fifth refinery if the government insists on the project being sited on the Southern Seaboard. The company, facing a new twist in its bid to build a refinery in Thailand, made the statement in response to the Wednesday [7 March] ruling by the government subcommittee on petroleum affairs that the Caltex plant should be set up in southern Thailand in line with the Chatchai government's ambitious programme to develop the South.

Chairman and chief executive Sukhawit Rangsitphon said the Caltex proposal, which had won government approval for the fifth refinery licence, was not intended to be incorporated into the southern development programme, the THAI NEWS AGENCY reported. "We planned to supply the domestic market, not overseas markets. And we've never conducted any studies on the prospects of investing in an export-oriented refinery in Thailand, the type that was indicated by the subcommittee."

"We never thought of siting our refinery in the South and Caltex already operates a 1-million-barrel refinery in Singapore for overseas markets. In Thailand, we look at the domestic market," he said, adding that to invest in

export production, the investors must be crude producers or, otherwise, have to site facilities in a regional distribution centre like Singapore.

Sukhawit also said it is not common for Caltex to undertake a major joint venture with Kuwait, a major petroleum producer that has expressed interests in establishing an oil industry in southern Thailand.

At present, the southern region accounts for only 10 percent (about 40,000 barrels/day) of the national oil consumption. However, it has been rising rapidly during the past 2-3 years. If the refinery is built in the South, most of the products must be exported because major domestic markets would be central, northern, and northeastern regions.

This will make Caltex, the country's fourth largest petrol retailer, less competitive vis a vis other refineries on the eastern seaboard in terms of costs, according to Sukhawit. In the southern market, Caltex currently controls a marginal share of 10 percent with a daily sales of some 5,000 barrels.

Sukhawit also pointed at other factors crucial to the economic feasibility of the refinery, if built in the south. Besides the cost disadvantage, the region lacks infrastructure to support a major investment in oil refining. To overcome this critical barrier, the government needs to invest several billion baht in public utilities, ports, communications, and other facilities before a refinery can be established there. "This will take a long time. It's also virtually impossible to forecast when the infrastructure will be ready."

Sukhawit stressed that advance investment in infrastructure is a crucial prerequisite to the feasibility of the refinery project. "As you know, we (Caltex, a unit of US-based joint ventures Chevron and Texaco,) proposed to site the refinery in Map Taphut on the eastern seaboard, not in the South."

The siting has emerged as a major issue in the government's bid to build more refineries to meet the fast-growing demand for finished oil products after Caltex was awarded the "unprecedented" fifth refinery licence. Shortly before, Shell was given a licence, the fourth after Bangkok Petroleum Co, Thai Oil Co and Esso.

Currently, the three existing refineries, one in Bangkok and two on the eastern seaboard, have a combined capacity to supply 341,000 barrels per day whereas the national demand is approaching 400,000 barrels. However, Caltex yesterday also proposed an alternative for the government, suggesting that a "twin" refinery complex be built in Map Taphut instead to eliminate the need for Caltex to go South. Under this concept, both Shell, which won the fourth refinery licence, and Caltex will be able to build their plants on the same site on the eastern seaboard, and utilize common utilities and infrastructure.

"This will save a substantial investment when compared to two separate projects." If both the Shell and Caltex plants are built together, the national refinery supply will rise by 341,000 barrels to 597,000 barrels per day. Twin refineries will need only 1,200 rai while separate ones will need 800 rai each, he estimated.

Map Taphut, the designated refinery site for Shell, is most suitable in terms of marketing, distribution, and infrastructure. "It is not practical to spread the risks by having another refinery built elsewhere," he said, referring to the thinking that separate siting would be better in terms of national security during wartime.

Asked about the future prospects of Caltex in Thailand in case the company forsakes the refinery project, he said the future will be more difficult but there will still be other solutions. Caltex is currently the fourth larest retailer with a market share of 15.2 percent, excluding bunker oil sales.

New Proposal to U.S. on Textile Talks Cited

BK0803011990 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 8 Mar 90 p 24

[Text] The Government is expected to submit a fresh proposal to the United States calling for both sides to 'soften' their stands in an attempt to break the impasse in their textile agreement talks. A source said the proposal would be tabled by the Thai negotiating team led by Foreign Trade Department Director-General Oranut Osathanon when she meets her counterpart in Geneva next week to report the latest developments on the disputed textile categories to the Textile Surveillance Body. The Textile Surveillance Body oversees textile disputes among Multi-Fibre Arrangement [MFA] signatory members.

The source said Thailand would propose that Washington provide a much bigger textile quota base if it insists on imposing aggregate quotas, or caps, on top of individual quotas allocated to Thailand. He refused, however, to elaborate on how big Thailand wanted the quota base as this will be subject to further negotiations with the US. Thailand will also consider the textile quotas the US grants to other countries.

The source said exports of all Thai textiles to the US rose from 105 million square yards in 1988 to 128 million square yards last year without the restrictions of the previous three-year textile agreement. This year exports are expected to grow a minimum 20 per cent. The source said the sharp increase in exports last year was due to the lack of aggregate quotas. The trade instead came under the MFA which required both parties to control the quotas.

The Thai authorities were successful last year in controlling exports despite certain problems with several categories. Washington called for consultation talks on these areas to ask Thailand to limit its quotas on the grounds the exports had disturbed the US market.

Previous talks between Thailand and the United States have ended in deadlock as the US wanted to continue imposing caps under a new agreement, while Thailand refused.

The source said the new proposal would protect both countries' interests. Thailand will continue to enjoy higher export quotas and the US will be able to reduce the mounting pressure from its domestic textile industries. The US Administration has come under strong pressure from the local industry because of its dissatisfaction with the Administration's failure to strike a new textile deal with Thailand after more than one year of talks.

The source said the American ambassador to Thailand recently hinted that American textile producers wanted to file a petition against Thailand under Section 301 of the US Trade Act with the United States Trade Representatives on the basis that textile imports from Thailand had damaged the domestic industry.

Thai Garment Manufacturers' Association president Wirot Amatakunchai said yesterday that Thai and US officials would hold informal talks on a new textile agreement during their Geneva meeting. He said Thailand would submit a fresh proposal aimed at arriving at a compromise on their differences.

Mr Wirot also said US textile producers were increasing pressure to have Section 301 invoked against Thailand. He said the two sides would also report to the Textile Surveillance Body on the latest developments in their talks to thrash out the problems on disputed textile categories.

Army Chief Chawalit Leaves for Burma 13 Mar

BK1303065490 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Army Commander and Acting Supreme Commander General Chawalit Yongchaiyut, leading a delegation of high-ranking military officials and reporters, left the military airport at Don Muang this morning for a visit to Burma.

Lieutenant General Narudon Detpradiyut, director of the Information Office of the Supreme Command Headquarters, told reporters that Gen Chawalit and the delegation will spend only one day in Burma. The main purpose of the trip is to strengthen relations between the two countries. Chawalit will meet General Saw Maung, acting prime minister of Burma, and Burmese military supreme commander, and will visit other senior Burmese military officials.

Asked if the acting supreme commander and the delegation will discuss Thai-Burmese border problems and narcotic suppression with Burmese authorities, Narudon said it is expected that both sides will discuss various issues of mutual interest.

Reaction to Chatchai Refugee Proposal Reported

Seen as 'New Political Signal'

BK0803013990 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 8 Mar 90 p 4

[By Anurat Maniphan: "Neutral Camps Could Affect Khmer Resistance"]

[Text] Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan's proposal to set up neutral camps for displaced Cambodians, welcomed on humanitarian grounds, is widely seen as a new political signal of diminishing support for the Cambodian resistance. "A new page is about to be turned, with what seems to be a new sign of hardening towards the resistance," one analyst pointed out.

If effected, the move would weaken the support base of resistance groups often said to be "holding hostage" some 300,000 refugees in United Nations-assisted camps along the border. By consequence, the guerrillas' staying power in the battlefield would be affected, more or less, depending on the continuation of arms supplies, sources noted.

If indeed this was in General Chatchai's mind it would come as no surprise given his accommodating attitude towards Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen. Gen Chatchai in January 1989 became the first ASEAN prime minister to receive Mr Hun Sen in Bangkok.

The prospect has sparked fears among international aid officials that the Khmer Rouge, which has already forced thousands back to Cambodia in recent months, would push more across the border in order to keep their people for manpower and political back-up.

The prime minister put forward the proposal after making clear, in the wake of the failure of the Jakarta meeting, that he would host no peace talks for the time being. The proposal emerged on the eve of his departure for Europe, where member states of the European Community last year supported a call for the setting up of neutral camps. The prime minister left for Belguim last night.

Whether political ends were part of the intent or not, the proposal was widely welcomed on humanitarian grounds by international aid officials in Bangkok. "The need for a neutral, safe environment for the civilian population at the border has long been recognised. Any steps that go in this direction can only be considered as favourable," a senior UN refugee official said.

But, besides the fear of forced repatriations, aid officials also pointed to practical difficulties on the ground. "It would be very difficult to neutralise a large population as it remains to be seen whether political networks would escape such an attempt," one said.

Putting people for several years under the control of three different groups in one place would not necessarily eradicate fear of intimidation or coercion, given the

limits of camp life, they pointed out. A solution should be acceptable to all agencies and parties concerned so as not to antagonise any one side, they added.

The prime minister's proposal is yet to become a decision. But sources noted that the Khmer Rouge, the strongest of the resistance, would be able to move a large number of people across the border within a short time if and when that decision is made. "Phnom Penh was emptied in one day," one noted, pointing to the Khmer Rouge evacuation of the Cambodian capital when they seized power in April 1975.

The Khmer Rouge "liberated zones" are also said to be better supplied than those of the other two groups loyal to Prince Sihanouk and Mr Son Sann. "They have enough food," one source said. Citing problems of supplies and locations of territories, the source contended that the Khmer Rouge would be the "only group" able to effect what would be a large movement of people.

Aid officials however noted that there would be no physical problems in setting up neutral camps on the Thai side. The UN-run camp of Khao I-dang, now holding some 12,000 refugees, could take tens of thousands more, one pointed out.

The officials welcomed the idea of neutral camps as training centres for Cambodians to lean skills in preparation for a voluntary return to their homeland as part of a comprehensive settlement.

Dailies Support 'Decision'

BK0903140190

[Editorial Report] Two Thai-language dailies—SIAM RAT and THAI RAT—on 9 March carry editorials supporting Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan's decision to close all Cambodian refugee camps on the Thai border.

SIAM RAT's editorial on page 8, entitled: "The Way to Get the Cambodian People to Reconcile," supports the prime minister's instruction to concerned ministries to work out a plan to close the camps and replace them with neutral camps sponsored by the United Nations. The paper notes the heavy burden on Thailand to shelter the refugees from Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia—300,000 from Cambodia alone. "We have sympathy for the refugees fleeing from the dangers of war; we also have sympathy for the Thai governments, past and present, for shouldering such a heavy burden for humanitarian reasons," the editorial says. The presence of the refugees has created other problems. In addition to the heavy expenses, Thailand is exposed to the problems of border incursions and lack of security for its border officials. A peace settlement has never materialized because the four Cambodian factions cannot reach a compromise despite the fact that the international community has been making the utmost efforts to help them. The failure of the most recent Cambodian informal meeting in Jakarta is another example. The paper concludes: "In order to save the Cambodian people from extinction, we appeal to every government to stop giving assistance—economic, political, military, and social—to all Cambodian factions in order to force them to reconcile, as the first step toward achieving a lasting peace."

THAI RAT's page-3 editorial, entitled: "Closing all the Refugee Camps," states that the move to close Cambodian refugee camps along the border "is another bold decision by Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunawan aimed at speeding up the peace settlement in Cambodia." This move will help relieve Thailand's long-standing burden of sheltering a large number of Cambodian refugees at the various camps. Although a number of refugees have left for third countries, Thailand still has at present 300,000 displaced Cambodians at the eight refugee camps along the border provinces.

The refugees have caused other problems for Thailand. These include rivalries among the different political factions, corruption at the camps, and threats to the security of Thai people at the border. THAI RAT says that the decision to transfer responsibilities to the United Nations by opening neutral camps is "the best solution to the problem." Thailand strongly appealed to world powers to stop giving arms and other kinds of assistance to the Cambodian factions. Their cooperation will highly contribute to the settlement of the problem. The paper notes finally that voluntary repatriation might be difficult to carry out as the refugees look forward to starting a new life in third countries.

Report on 'Gunrunning' Along Cambodian Border

BK0803121190 Bangkok KHAO PHISET in Thai 5-11 Mar 90 pp 35-37

[Article by "Prakonchai Wo. 2" entitled: "A Penetrating Look Into the Arms Market and the Green Code Along the Cambodian Border"]

[Excerpt] The many arrests of gunrunners in 1989 may show the effectiveness of the suppression officials, but the actual number of gunrunning operations which avoided arrest is amazing. The operations which were uncovered involved small-scale gunrunners, while the large-scale operators rarely were arrested. Gunrunning is not just a simple illegal operation; it is a complicated business involving political elements and hidden factors. Later in this article, KHAO PHISET will reveal the sources of military weapons which were smuggled from Cambodia into the three Thai provinces on the Cambodian border. These weapons eventually ended up on the Thai-Malaysian border, in some Thai eastern provinces, and in the hands of Burmese minority groups.

To imagine the number of military weapons coming from Cambodia and their widespread use, one should realize that local Thai officials at the village and tambon levels in Surin and Buriram, in addition to bandits and hooligans, possess and freely use AK-47's.

The question is: How do these weapons reach Thailand, and who acts as the middlemen in buying and selling them? There is no way an ordinary Thai citizen can cross the mountainous border and buy weapons from Cambodian soldiers.

KHAO PHISET directs its suspicions at the Khmer Serei military camps in Ban Kruat District, Buriram Province and Prasat District, Surin Province. The leaders of these areas enjoy the privilege of driving motorcycles into the district markets or riding Thai military trucks to the fairs in Surin. According to Thai military sources, these Cambodian soldiers maintain good relations with some local Thai soldiers, particularly ranger volunteers whose forward camps are located next to the Cambodian camps. It is not surprising that most of the people arrested for possession of military weapons claim that they obtained the weapons from ranger volunteers. Criminals also make similar claims when they are arrested.

Local Thai soldiers who have close friendships with Khmer Serei soldiers are the likely sources of the military weapons coming through the border. If only privates are involved, the number of weapons is small, but if officers on both sides are involved, there are enough weapons involved to require transport by vehicles.

KHAO PHISET went to a Khmer Serei military camp near the Buriram border. This camp is located in the foothills of Phnom Dongrak near the O Bok border pass, and is staffed by about 150 soldiers. The camp commander is a captain who reports to the Thai military camp at Ban Chan Daeng in Ban Kruat District, about 10 km away. The KHAO PHISET reporter arrived at the camp just as a batch of about 100 M-16A1's were being delivered. The officer in charge said that the weapons were donated by a friendly country in the "A" group. He said that he would allow the weapons and camp to be photographed only if permission was given by Captain S. from the Ban Chan Daeng camp, citing security reasons.

The reporter tried to elicit information about arms transactions but was assured that the camp never trafficked in arms. However, he noticed that there were no old rifles in the camp and that all the soldiers carried new AK-47's or M-16's. The officer in charge claimed that the old weapons and those captured from the enemy are stored in a large depot in the jungle near the Surin border.

According to a local military source, the buying and selling of arms is commonplace among soldiers in the area. Some ranger volunteers with close ties to the Khmer Serei soldiers begged, and were given weapons by their Khmer Serei friends. These volunteers either resold the weapons or kept them for their own use after retirement.

The same source said that the prices of weapons in the Buriram, Surin, Prachin Buri, and Ubon Ratchathani border areas are about the same. An M-16 costs 1,500-2,000 baht; an M-16A1 about 2,500-3,000 baht; an AK-47 about 1,200-1,700 baht; pistols are about 1,000-2,000 baht each depending on the type; an RPG costs 2,000-2,500 baht; hand grenades cost 70-100 baht each; and 100 rounds of small-arms ammunition goes for about 500-700 baht. These prices are doubled after being handled by middlemen. These middlemen use word of mouth to spread offers to their clients. After securing orders for a number of arms, they travel to the border to get the weapons and make an appointment with the clients to pick up the goods. These transactions are usually small-scale.

At Chom Pass on the Prasat District border and O Bok Pass on the Buriram border, weapons from Cambodia are brought into Thailand and sold on a larger scale. Chom Pass is controlled by the Wirawatyothin Military Camp, whose soldiers also control Bok Pass in Ubon Ratchathani Province where there is also rampant arms smuggling. [passage omitted]

Crewman Believed Killed in Malaysian 'Attack'

BK1003034890 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 10 Mar 90 p 2

[Text] Songkhla—A Thai crewman is believed to have been shot dead by a Malaysian patrol boat when it opened fire on a Thai fishing trawler in international waters last Saturday [3 March].

Surviving crewmen, who arrived at the Songkhla fishing pier yesterday after Malaysian authorities released them at the Thai-Malaysian border in Tak Bai District of Narathiwat province on Tuesday, said they had been detained at a Kelantan police station for three days before the Malaysian officers took them to the border district. The seven crewmen said they were all hired to work on the "Phonsirirat 1," a 9-ton trawler which won an Indonesian company's contract to fish in an Indonesian concession area.

They said the trawler was on its way to the pier in Songkhla after completing a fishing trip when it encountered the Malaysian patrol boat in international waters off the coast of southern Thailand. They said the Malaysian boat signalled it to stop, but trawler skipper Udom Thongkoet decided to continue the journey because he had already complied with the Thai-Malaysian agreement that Thai trawlers will keep all fishing instruments on deck to show they are not fishing in a particular area and are only passing through on the way home.

As the Thai trawler did not yield to the Malaysian signal, Malaysian officials fired teargas and assault rifles at the Thai crewmen and used their boat to ram the trawler until it sank, the crewmen said. They said they were forced to jump into the sea and were later picked up by the Malaysian patrol boat.

Chet Sangsuwan was missing and his fellow crewmen believed he may have been shot dead in the attack. They said they were forced to sign a statement admitting that

they had been fishing in Malaysian waters but when some of them refused they were assaulted by the Malaysian officers on board.

The crewmen said they requested to see the Thai counsul-general in Malaysia after they were jailed in Kelantan for two days but their request was turned down. They were set free the next day.

The Songkhla Fishing Association yesterday filed a complaint about the incident with Muang District police station. Association Secretary-General Uthit Chuchuai said it would also submit a complaint with the Foreign Ministry in Bangkok next week and would ask the ministry to demand compensation for the loss of Mr Chet's life as well as 3 million baht in damage to the boat and for the loss of the catch. It will also hand a letter to the Malaysian counsul-general in Songkhla asking him to warn Malaysian officials to refrain from attacking Thai fishing boats.

The Foreign Ministry said it was waiting for a full report on the incident and was closely following up the case.

Deputy Prime Minister Receives Li Tieying

BK1103090790 Bangkok XING XIAN RIBAO in Chinese 9 Mar 90 p 4

[Text] Li Tieying, Chinese minister in charge of the State Education Commission, in Thailand to attend the World Conference on Education for All at the Ambassador City Chomthian Hotel in Phatthaya, paid a courtesy call on Deputy Prime Minister Phong Sarasin at government house at 1030 yesterday. He was accompanied by Chinese Ambassador to Thailand Li Shichun.

The five-day World Conference on Education for All has been held from 5 to 9 March. During his meeting with Phong, Minister Li Tieying praised the Thai government, as host, for the success of this world conference to discuss education development for all.

Phong told Li Tieying about the Thai Government's policy on education development to increase the people's literacy rate and their knowledge.

Touching on the friendly relations between Thailand and China, Deputy Prime Minister Phong said that bilateral relations between the two countries is close. It is reported that Princess Kanlayaniwatthana will pay a visit to Yunna Province this year to attend an education meeting. In addition, Princess Sirinthon will travel to China to visit and observe the Silk Road in order to strengthen friendly relations and economic and cultural exchanges.

Minister Li Tieying spoke highly of Thailand's rapid economic growth in recent years, from which China could learn a lot. Deputy Prime Minister Phong said that despite the rapid economic growth, there are still some problems which need prompt attention, such as the rural poverty problem and the problem on how to increase the income of farmers and to improve their standard of living. This is the policy of the Thai Government.

At the end of the cordial talks, the officials exchanged souvenirs.

PRC Official on Military Training for Students

BK1103073690 Bangkok XING XIAN RIBAO in Chinese 8 Mar 90 p 4

[By Liu Zhenyan from Chomthian Beach]

[Text] Granting an interview to Western correspondents here yesterday, Teng Teng, Chinese vice minister in charge of the State Education Commission, said that in order to strengthen discipline, the Chinese Government may ask all new university students to undergo military training.

Recently, all 800 new students at Beijing University were sent to Hebei Province for military training, which included target practice and grenade throwing. The requirement for Beijing students to undergo military training was implemented after the Beijing authority's military suppression of pro-democracy students in June of last year.

Teng Teng said that in addition to military training, the students would also have to go on field trips to factories and farms. The aim would be to allow the students to get close to soldiers, workers, and farmers so they can observe and learn from real life.

Teng Teng also said that the Chinese Government's plan for sending students to study abroad in Europe and Japan is quite right. However, he expressed his dissatisfaction with North American countries' action of continually taking some students who should return to work at home. He said that Chinese students can express their opinions freely, but should not "go too far."

"If education work is carried out well, democracy will improve. But, abusing democracy will cause riots" Teng Teng said.

Article Examines Army Leadership After Chawalit

BK0903022990 Bangkok THE NATION in English 9 Mar 90 p 5

[Article by Phongsak Sisot, THE NATION editor, entitled: "Will Chawalit's Resignation Strengthen Unity of the Army?"]

[Text] Gen [General] Chawalit Yongchaiyut's announcement to quit next month has raised the question of how his resignation will shape the army. Answering that question, however, is complicated by the question of what Chawalit's political role will be. Will he accept Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan's invitation to enter his Cabinet as deputy prime minister and defence minister? Or will he stay outside?

Chawalit, however, has kept his intentions a guessing game and probably will not reveal them until after he has resigned.

Some observers have linked the questions, contending that Chawalit's entry into the Chatchai Cabinet will be construed as a compromise between the two men and that Chatchai will allow Chawalit to pick his successors as supreme commander and army commander in chief. Otherwise, a political showdown between them may be inevitable. If that happens, Chatchai may decide to exercise his power as defence minister to pick Chawalit's successor.

Chatchai reportedly wants Defence Ministry Permanent Secretary Gen Wanchai Ruangtrakun to return to the army to succeed Chawalit. But whether the premier wants to risk irking Chawalit's supporters in the army remains to be seen.

If Chawalit has his way there is no doubt that Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong, his classmate and close friend, will be promoted to the post of supreme commander, while Deputy Army chief Gen Suchinda Khaprayun will become army commander in chief. The post of supreme commander is generally seen to be a figurehead, while the army command is where the real power lies. But Chawalit's resignation means more than just replacing his immediate successors; it means a major reshuffle in leadership that will significantly alter the face of the army.

For one thing, a power vacuum among top generals may arise with the resignation of Sunthon and Army Chief of Staff Gen Charuai Wongsayan, who, like Chawalit, is a Chunlachomklao Militrary Academy Class One graduate. At present, there are five full generals: Chawalit, Charuai, Suchinda, Arun Pariwattham and Itsarapong Nunphakdi. Arun and Itsaraphong were promoted to the posts of assistant army commanders in chief in October. Gen Arun belongs to Class Three while Gen Itsaraphong is a Class Five member.

In the second echelon are Lt Gen [Lieutenant General] Wirot Saengsanit (Class Five) and Lt Gen Chatchom Khanlong (Class Five), who are now serving as deputy chiefs of staff under Charuai.

Under Wirot and Chatchom are five assistant chiefs of staff, three of whom are Class Five members and two others who are members of Class Six. The five assistants are Lt Gen Chamlaeng Uchukomon (Class Five, in charge of civilian affairs), Lt Gen Thawon Rattanawadi (Class Five, in charge of intelligence), Lt Gen Chaiwut Simat (Class Five, in charge of personnel), Lt Gen Pramon Phalasinthu (Class Six, operations), and Lt Gen Wachira Suriyakun Na Ayutthaya (Class Six, logistics).

The new army lineup under Suchinda is generally well-known but has yet to be officially announced. At a glance it appears that Suchinda will command a united army with Class Five generals dominating four of the five top posts and having domination over all regional armies.

Set for promotion to the post of deputy army commander in chief is Itsaraphong, who is due to retire in 1994, one year after Suchinda. Arun, due to retire in 1992, is expected to stay in his position. The vacancy left behind by Itsaraphong's promotion is expected to be filled by one of the senior regional army commanders.

First Army Region Commander Lt Gen San Siphen (Class Five) was promoted to the powerful post in October and is not expected to be reshuffled. The other three regional army commanders, therefore, are candidates to succeed Itsaraphong:

—Second Army Region Commander Lt Gen Wimon Wongsanit (Class Five): promoted to the rank of major general as First Special Warfare Division commander in October 1982; made lieutenant general as Special Warfare Commander in October 1986; and appointed to his present post in October.

—Third Army Region Commander Lt Gen Siri Thiwaphan (Class Four): promoted to the rank of major general in October 1982 as Fourth Infantry Division Commander; made regional commander at the rank of lieutenant general in April 1987.

—Fourth Army Region commander Lt Gen Yutthana Yaemphan (Class Four): promoted to the rank of major general as First Army Region chief of staff in October 1982; appointed assistant army chief of staff for intelligence at the rank of lieutenant general in October 1986; moved to the top of the Army Training Command Department the following year; and appointed to his present post in October. Yutthana is said to have health problems following a recent helicopter crash.

Given the pre-eminent roles of Class Five members, Wimon has the greatest chance of succeeding Itsaraphong. The other two regional commanders are expected to be "promoted" to the rank of full general and be given inactive posts, either at Supreme Command or in the Defence Ministry.

Siri and Yutthana are expected to follow in the footsteps of former First Army Region commander Lt Gen Watthana Witthisiri (Class Four), who was transferred in October to an inactive post at the Supreme Command with the rank of full general; and former Fourth Army Region commander Lt Gen Wisit Atkhumwong, military adviser attached to the Supreme Command with the rank of full general.

The likely commanders of regional armies under Suchinda are:

—Lt Gen San Siphen (Class Five): will retain his post as First Army Region commander.

—Lt Gen Somphon Toemthonglchai (Class Five): currently Chunlachomklao Mililtary Academy commander, will succeed Wimon as Second Army Region commander.

—Lt Gen Withun Sunthonchan (Class Five): now Third Army Corp commander will succeed Siri as Third Army Region commander.

—Maj Gen [Major General] Kitti Rattanachaya (Class Eight, an ally of Class Five): will be promoted from the post of Fourth Army Region deputy commander to succeed Yutthana.
—Lt Gen Khachon Ramanwong (Class Five): is expected to retain his powerful post as Special Warfare commander.

Wirot is also tipped to succeed Charuai as army chief of staff. His post is expected to be filled by Thawon, the most senior of five assistant chiefs of staff.

Daily Supports Non-MP To Become Next Premier

BK1203101590 Bangkok NAEO NA in Thai 11 Mar 90 p 5

[Editorial: "Political Fundamental"]

[Text] Some politicians believe that to be democratic one must come from an elected office only. No matter who they are—a military man, a permanent government official, or a man in any career field—if they want to enter the political arena, they all must go through the election process.

In principle, such a saying is correct, but the real social conditions have to be taken into account. Can it be guaranteed that such an election will produce good members of Parliament? How mature is the political process in Thailand? And how much can people be confident of the election process?

As a matter of fact, politicians of every party still act in a manner that can not be trusted. In every election campaign, dirty maneuvers aimed at attacking each other in every possible way can be seen. A candidate spent more money in the election campaign than the maximum amount legally allowed, and votes were bought with it. Even after being elected an MP [member of Parliament], a person can still use money to buy a cabinet portfolio.

The reason the politicians can do so is that more than 70 percent of the population is still not politically mature and does not understand the principle of democracy. The number of voters who turn out is still not sufficient to be regarded as a "voting majority" of the people in the country. A number of voters who cast votes are those who sell their voting rights in exchange for only a small amount of money and who cast their votes as directed by politicians. A combined total of the two groups of voters mentioned is many times greater than the independent voters.

The idea that elections are indicative of democracy in Thailand will therefore take much longer time to materialize. Considering the prevailing conditions, we should accept the fact that the present Constitution provides a good opportunity for a compromise. It does not stipulate that a prime minister must come from an elected office only.

Politics everywhere must be adjusted to the real conditions of the people in the society. If the people still lack a fundamental knowledge and understanding of democracy, there has to be considerable flexibility in the principle.

There once was a constitution stipulating that the prime minister must come from an elected office, and the government and constitution during that particular period did not last very long!

Democracy is an administrative system based on the masses. If the masses are not ready to take it, it should not be forced upon them, or else there will be wounds and pains which will lead to a bad start all over again.

Army Radio Supports Non-MP in Cabinet

BK1003095090 Bangkok First Army Division Radio in Thai 2300 GMT 8 Mar 90

["Sayamanusati" feature]

[Summary] Dear listeners: Everyone knows that in the past week the reports that have dominated the mass media concern when General Chawalit Yongchaiyut, Army commander in chief and acting supreme commander, will resign from government service and whether or not he will hold a cabinet post after his resignation. Newspaper, radio, and television correspondents tried to interview important persons from various parties—the prime minister, the Army commander, ministers from the government coalition, and Major General M.R. Khukrit Pramot—on these questions. But today the big news on the replacement of the Bank of Thailand governor is dominating newspapers' headlines instead of the news reports concerning Gen. Chawalit.

"Reviewing the two news reports presented to you today by the Sayamanusati feature—the news on the Army commander's resignation and rumors that he will be appointed a minister, and the news on the replacement of the Bank of Thailand governor—you can find some similarities." The advanced operations of any institution depends on the capability of personnel, who must be suitable to the positions. The working system concerned is also important.

Regarding personnel, you may note that when correspondents interviewed the prime minister, ministers, government and opposition politicians, and even Maj. Gen. M.R. Khukrit Pramot, all of them gave a similar opinion that "Gen. Chawalit Yongchaiyut is a person who has great knowledge and capability and will do many things beneficial for the country." Similarly, some senior officials concerned said that the dismissed Bank of Thailand governor is a person who has great knowledge and capability, has done many beneficial things for the Bank of Thailand, and who has cooperated in assisting financial institutions. All in all, any persons who have performed public service will be accepted and admired by the society. How the capability of a person will be used to benefit the public depends not only on

that person but also on suitable conditions. If not used properly, the knowledge and capability will be useless.

Another factor is the system. Some correspondents liked to ask important persons about the Army commander becoming a minister without going through a general election. All of you probably know that the Constitution does not stipulate that cabinet ministers must come from elections, because this may bar capable persons who are not members of Parliament [MP's] from administering the country. Our laws allow suitable persons to administer the country. "So, if the Army commander resigns from government service and is invited to take up a cabinet post, he could become a minister in keeping with the law." However, interviews given by some persons have offered opinions for and against this, for various reasons.

Naturally, a question could get different responses from people with different living conditions, such as their status, duties, and positions. The Army commander said "the issue concerning a minister not being an MP involves the views of certain people and groups, which cannot be considered right or wrong. Holding a ministerial post without contesting an election is not wrong. The most important thing is the way of thinking, because some people may think this runs counter to their old feelings. We have to listen to them and not think that those persons are wrong if they do not agree with us, or that only the persons who agree with us are right."

These are the general answers from the Army commander. "He has never said that he will become a politician or a minister after his retirement from military service. Others spoke on his behalf, and criticisms spread."

The issue of the democratic system has to be taken into consideration if a fair answer is to be found. "If our democratic system is perfected to a certain extent—that is, if our people understand their rights and duties under the democratic system correctly and exercise their rights fully—the people will have freedom in elections, there will be no vote buying and no instructions on who should be elected, and the elections will be fair. If everything proceeds like this, we will have high-quality representatives—those who have knowledge, capability, morality, and ethics."

When the country's democratic system develops to such an extent, it will then be appropriate to amend the Constitution to make it compulsory for ministers to be recruited from the ranks of elected MPs, because we will be able to find ministers with good quality, knowledge, and capability to administer the ministries. Please be confident that, when all government agencies have high-quality ministers who are ready to carry out their works with knowledge and understanding and who are sincere and determined to working for national interests, the country's administration will go smoothly because there will be no conflicts caused by suspicions and misunderstanding.

Dear listeners, please help improve our democracy, because we are tired of the term "half-sail democracy." If we want to always live in a democratic system with the king as head of state, we have to cooperate in eliminating the democracy-eating worms, and find ways to nurture our democracy to make it fully blossom.

Weekly Views Future of Democratic Government

BK1103021690 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 11 Mar 90 p 8

[From the "Inprint" column: "Clouds on the Democratic Horizon"]

[Text] The move led by the State Enterprise Worker Relations Groups and the National State Enterprises Union has finally forced Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan to shelve his privatisation plan for state enterprises, at least, for the time being, according to SIAM RAT WEEKLY REVIEW. The decision meant the Government would not touch the state enterprises according to the wishes of the union leaders who met with Gen Chatchai at his Soi Ratchakhru residence in March.

The negotiations, which ended in the government concession to the union leaders' demand, were reportedly carried out by the latter's offensive tactics not very different from "bullying," especially the demand calling for Gen Chatchai to sign an agreement unilaterally drawn up by the Public Enterprise Groups; the union leaders also claimed that Deputy Interior Minister Watthana Atsawahem, who is in charge of labour affairs, had already signed the agreement.

The four-point agreement includes: first, a clear government policy not to allow private businesses to run state enterprises at the present time; second, a halt of all state enterprise projects which the Government has allowed private businesses to jointly operate; third, the setting up of a committee to consider the improvement of state enterprises with union representatives as members; and fourth, seats for the union representatives on respective executive boards.

The atmosphere at the negotiation table was very tense, the weekly reported. The unionists were also attacking the Ban Phitsanulok policy advisory board, saying that the advice it gave always led to more chaos and problems. The ideas, they said, were too new for anyone to embrace.

The Prime Minister himself also said something that had widely attracted public attention: "I may be the last prime minister in the democratic system. I am beginning to feel uncertain, that democracy may not survive because the signs are showing that it is becoming weaker and troubles start to increase..."

Whether his utterance was because he was tired and fed up or a signal to warn about "something," the result of his negotiation with the union leaders was that the government policy to privatise the state enterprises was

temporarily postponed, pending further study by a committee in which workers would be represented.

Gen Chatchai made a comparison between the present-day political scene and Aesop's tale of the stork and frogs, warning that unless they were careful, they would be eaten up like the frogs by the stork—their new leader. His warning that democracy may be replaced by dictatorship must have been effective enough because SIAM RAT referred to him in its leader column.

The magazine said it had been asked by several university lecturers why the Press had gone overboard to praise Gen Chatchai after his appointment as prime minister. The answer was that the Press was happy because he had gone through an electoral process. Thailand had had 17 prime ministers, only four had been career politicians elected by the people and none had lasted long because it was like sitting in a microwave oven.

Another indisputable reason was that Thai politicians had always been afraid of the military so on many occasions they preferred to choose a civilian government rather than a military government despite their doubt about its efficiency and purity. Others felt that they wanted a civilian government because they could then openly express their dissatisfaction while they would have to keep their lips tight if the government came from the military.

For the above reasons, people seemed to heartily give their support to Gen Chatchai. And their reactions were often a contrast to those towards the military boss, Gen Chawalit, who was suspected of entertaining prime ministerial ambitions. So many of Gen Chawalit's constructive criticisms and opinions were opposed or misinterpreted.

Elections are only one facet of democracy, the weekly said. The implementation of policies, human rights and respect of the people's opinions were really the more essential aspects of democracy. At the same time, democracy did not mean surrendering to pressure leading to the abolition of policies which could be beneficial to the country—such as Gen Chatchai bowing to demands to put an end to the privatisation plan and then grumbling that he could well be the last democratic prime minister.

Along with righteousness came efficiency which was capable of supporting that righteousness. And efficiency could be gauged by the Government's actions. When this Government first came to power, it could be seen that it was determined to solve problems, up to a point that "no problem" became a catchphrase. But in the last few months, several events have raised doubts in the minds of many people.

The worst enemy of efficiency, aside from the lack of decisions and the inaction of some ministers, was the surfacing corruption allegations. With the political situation volatile, coupled with rumours of political parties fattening their coffers to prepare for the next election, the doubts have intensified. The delaying of several projects without any plausible reason or the rush approval of projects without suitable explanations—all have led to even more doubts.

If this situation was not rectified very soon, the excuse that this Government was elected by the people could crumble along with the oft-cited democracy, said SIAM RAT.

Vietnam

VNA Rejects PRC Charge on Troop Reappearance

BK1303105290 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] A Chinese official said: Vietnamese troops' massive return to Cambodia is a new tendency at present. Speaking with a radio correspondent in Paris recently, the Chinese official said: In fact, Vietnamese troops did not withdraw but have now massively reappeared. This statement was quoted by Radio Beijing on Monday [12 March] evening. In this connection, VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY flatly rejects the above slanderous charge, considering it an ill-intentioned fabrication.

Current Paris Conference on Cambodia Viewed

BK1203140690 Hanoi International Service in English 1100 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] Five big nations meet in Paris on March 12-13 to discuss the Cambodian issue. According to the French Foreign Ministry, the meeting will discuss the role and activities of the United Nations in Cambodia. Can the Cambodian issue be solved at this meeting? Here is our commentary:

In the last six months, these five countries repeatedly held meetings to discuss the Cambodian issue. This meeting is the third one. This shows that these countries have been really concerned over and spent much time to discuss the Cambodian issue. Like two previous meetings, this meeting cannot decide the internal affairs of Cambodia. These countries cannot solve the Cambodian issue because the Cambodian issue is the affair of the Cambodians.

The Cambodian issue directly concerns the Southeast Asian countries. Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach, on many occasions, affirmed that no one can replace the Cambodians to solve the internal affairs and no one can replace the people in Southeast Asia to solve their own affairs. Although no official document was signed at the IMC [informal meeting on Cambodia] in Jakarta, the Cambodian issue has not yet slipped from the hands of the Cambodians. And now the Southeast Asian countries should enhance their role, and together with the Cambodians, to solve this issue.

Though it cannot decide or solve the Cambodian issue, the people still wish that these five countries will make

practical contributions to solving this issue. In previous meetings, these countries ignored the genocidal crimes of the Pol Pot clique. This negative attitude does not help settle the Cambodian issue. Because of this action, the French newspaper LIBERATION wondered whether these five countries really pay attention to the settlement of the Cambodian issue or not and whether they have that (?all) in their power.

Speaking about the Cambodian issue is to talk about the elimination of the genocidal regime and prevention of the recurrence of this regime in Cambodia. Therefore, anyone who wants to solve this issue has to show resolute attitude toward the Khmer Rouge. The IMC ended without results due to the sabotage of the Khmer Rouge. Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan said he did not want to associate with the Coalition Government of Democratic Cambodia and described the Pol Pot regime as disgusting. The CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR editorially said: The demand for Khmer Rouge's participation in the future administration in Cambodia is unacceptable. Meanwhile the HINDUSTAN newspaper of India said: The support for the Khmer Rouge under any pretext is contrary to democratic norms. The IMC is the clear message on the necessity to have a resolute attitude to the Khmer Rouge.

Do these five countries at the third meeting on Cambodia turn counter to the stand of the press and political circle? The people hope that these countries will go with the current trend, namely to rule out the Khmer Rouge from the political and social life in Cambodia.

Positive Trend in Relations With Thailand Noted

BK1103111190 Hanoi International Service in Thai 1130 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Radio correspondent's review of developments related to Thai-Vietnamese bilateral relations]

[Text] During a meeting with the new Vietnamese ambassador to Thailand, Nguyen Trung, on 27 February, Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan said he looked forward to seeing a continuous improvement in relations between Thailand and Vietnam, especially in economic cooperation. General Chawalit Yongchaiyut, army commander in chief and supreme commander, who received the ambassador earlier, congratulated him for the success enjoyed by Vietnam in the course of economic and social reforms. He also expressed confidence that the friendly relations between Thailand and Vietnam will continue to develop. Gen. Chawalit told reporters that the Thai Government and people have never looked upon Vietnam as a threat. Thailand considers Vietnam to be a good neighbor. Thailand can exchange views with Vietnam on the question of regional peace, and Vietnam has come to better understand Thailand's attitude.

On 5 March, Mrs. Oranut Osathanon, director general of the Foreign Trade Department, Commerce Ministry, reported that there was a proposal from the Committee on Commercial Cooperation With Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, that the Thai Government should expand economic and investment cooperation with the Indochinese countries instead of clamping a control on it. Mrs. Oranut further disclosed that Commerce Minister Subin Pinkhayan will visit Vietnam in May to discuss with Vietnamese officials ways to expand economic cooperation. Last year, the deputy secretary general of the Board of Trade of Thailand, led a group of businessmen on a visit to Vietnam. Thailand agreed to provide facilities to Vietnam's Board of Trade and Industry toward promoting bilateral cooperation. A delegation of Thailand's Civil Aviation Department, led by the department's director general, also visited Vietnam last year. Both sides agreed on expanding cooperation in civil aviation service between the two countries.

Within the framework of bilateral relations, Thailand and Vietnam are paying attention to solving regional problems, including the Cambodian problem, through peaceful means. On 5 March, the Thai Government spokesman said that Thailand would review its policy with regards to the tripartite Khmer coalition and the Cambodian refugees to keep with the trend. Such a constructive stand by the Thai Government is most welcome by public opinion, which has expressed hope that the decision will be implemented soon. Despite existing obstacles, we are hopeful that relations between Thailand and Vietnam will grow, especially in the field of economic cooperation, in answer to the Thai and Vietnamese people's common aspiration and their desire for peace, friendship and cooperation.

Foreign Trade Expected To Increase 40 Percent

BK1003084890 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 9 Mar 90

["Vietnam Today" feature presenting "a brief introduction to Vietnam's external economic relations"]

[Text] Although foreign trade is considered a key branch in the national economy, Vietnam's foreign trade performance has not been noticeable until recent years. The annual foreign trade turnover has been increasing considerably, and exports are expected to reach 2 billion convertible rubles, a 40 percent increase over 1989. Vietnam has trade ties with some 80 countries and is a member of many international organizations; they are the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, the UN Development Program, the International Trade Center, the UN Council for Trade and Development, the Economic and Social Council for Asia and the Pacific, and so forth.

Some 50 countries have signed trade, financial, and economic agreements with Vietnam. The list of Vietnam's exports is quite long. Last year, topping the export list were crude oil, rice, rubber, coffee, and frozen seafood. They were greatly sought after by foreign clients and bought in large quantities. Vietnam's participation in international trade fairs is modest; but at least it has

won scores of gold medals, most of them from Leipzig and Plovdiv, respectively in the GDR and Bulgaria.

Vietnam has trade representation in 25 countries, including the socialist countries and many Western countries such as France, Britain, Italy, the FRG, and Japan. The Ministry for External Economic Relations is in charge of addressing concerns with foreign trade. Its office is located at Trang Tien Street, the center of Hanoi. About 50 general companies are affiliated with the ministry, and they import a wide range of products such as machines, mineral ores, oil and gas, and consumer goods. Vietnam also has a network of [word indistinct] unions of import and export companies operating in all provinces. They have the task of organizing production of export items. Topping the list in turnover is the one in Ho Chi Minh City. After that come the companies in Hanoi, Haiphong, some northern provinces, and the Mekong River Delta.

Information Agreement Signed With North Korea

BK0803154090 Hanoi VNA in English 1520 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 8—A delegation of the National Information Committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea led by Song Bong Sun, deputy head of the committee, paid a working visit to Vietnam from March 3-8.

While here, the delegation had a working session with a delegation of the Information Ministry headed by Deputy Minister Phan Hien. The two sides signed an agreement on information cooperation in the coming period.

The Korean delegation was received by Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers Tran Duc Luong.

AFP Reports Comments on Upcoming Plenum

BK1003025890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0217 GMT 10 Mar 90

[By Hoang Dinh Nam]

[Text] Hanoi, March 10 (AFP)—Mass organisations and individuals throughout the country have called for a renewal and a purge of the Vietnamese Communist Party ahead of a crucial party plenum next week, according to reports in the official press here. Diplomats said the coming plenum, the eighth since the sixth party congress in December 1986 established the broad lines for reforms in the country, would begin next week in Hanoi and adopt a more democratic line. The Vietnamese party is worried that East European-style democracy protests could erupt in Hanoi and threaten its monopoly on power, the diplomats said.

Most of the comments published in the official media said the plenum should concentrate on strengthening the party and said it was "imperative" for the party to "renew itself and purge its ranks" to regain the people's confidence. "Before its seventh congress (which must be held next year), the party should carry out a rectification campaign from its highest level—the Politburo—to the party cells," one reader wrote to the QUAN DOI NHAN DAN daily. The reader, Phan Hai Nam, proposed the "renewal of party membership cards in order to expel from the party ranks any corrupt and tainted members." "If necessary, one-third or half the members" of the party should be expelled because "it would be better to be small but good," he said.

In an unprecedented move, the Vietnamese population has been invited by the party to comment and make suggestions on a proposal to renew the party leadership, published a month ago and to be submitted to next week's plenum. People did not hold back but became involved in what the official press has called the "most animated" debate sine 1975. Corruption, misappropriation, abuses of power, violations of social justice and oppression are the main complaints voiced against unpopular cadres in numerous articles and letters published daily throughout the past month in Hanoi's official press. Calls for change have largely focussed on the desire for wider democracy, respect for social justice and the scrapping of benefits for party cadres. One of the thousands of letters published demanded that "members of the Central Committee and ministers" should not be exempted from punishment if they have been involved in dishonest practices.

Although none of the opinions published mentioned multiparty politics or questioned the leading role of the party, several alluded to these subjects in passing, by referring to the recent events in Eastern Europe. Le Quy Ky, a reader of the army daily QUAN DOI NHAN DAN, said, "I have the impression that the fight against negative elements became the decisive factor in the reversals" in the socialist countries of Eastern Europe. He added that "delays in fighting corruption and privileges for the leaders" were at the root of the trouble. The Vietnamese party is opposed to pluralism and the political changes which have affected its Eastern European allies but has said it favours "gradual and sure" political reform to avoid instability in Vietnam. However, concerned by what it has seen in Eastern Europe, the party leadership appears to have decided to give a slight push to political reforms, saying it wants to democratise the activities of grass-roots organisations and renew its leadership. Party General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh promised last month that all Politburo members, including himself, would conduct a self-criticism, apparently for the first time, before the next party plenum is held.

Review of People's Opinions on Mass Mobilization

BK0903163390 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 4 Mar 90

[From the press review for 4 March]

[Text] Today, in their 4 March Sunday issues, all papers published in Hanoi continue carrying many reports on the opinions contributed by the people of various strata

to the party Central Committee's eighth plenum draft program. The paper QUAN DOI NHAN DAN on page one summed up more than 1,000 opinions from the armed forces in the 7th military, maintaining that it is necessary to clearly point out the real causes of the decrease of the people's faith in the party as well as to define the responsibility of party members in implementing the party's resolutions. In the "Contribute views to renovating and intensifying the party's mass mobilization work" section on the same page, the paper carries an article by Nguyen Viet Son stressing the need for the party and state to urgently enforce regulations to eliminate the practice of granting or seeking privilege. The article says in part:

Since the sixth party congress, the existence of this irrational practice has severely been criticized in many resolutions and directives of the party and state as well as in many statements by various comrade leaders. The party Central Committee's eighth plenum draft program on the party's mass mobilization work points to the need to renovate the leadership of the party, the management of the state, and the activities of various political and social organizations. It also points to developing and improving socialist democracy, ensuring that powers truly belong to the people, and eliminating bureaucratism, corruption, the practice of granting or seeking privilege, and other acts of negativism. Based on the draft program, the privileges enjoyed by some party cadres and members in high positions and power are one of the few types of poison that have weakened the people's confidence in the party.

We enthusiastically welcome this draft program on mass mobilization work of our party, which has demonstrated the determination to eliminate the practice of seeking and granting priviledges in the party and state apparatus. The elimination of this practice will certainly help consolidate the party's prestige, restore the people's confidence in the party and their revolutionary impetus. It has been a constant embarrassment for both the party and the masses when they realize that a resolution, which always sounds optimistic, cannot be fully implemented if key cadres lack determination. To eliminate this practice we not only have to rely on education, we also need regulations for enforcement. These are things that we still lack. As a result, in eliminating this practice, we sometimes have to depend mainly on slogans.

Nguyen Van Linh Visits Dairy Corporation

BK0303161890 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Text] Good news came unexpectedly to the family of brother Thai Van Tam on Sunday morning, 25 February, when Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh came to inquire about the family's good working method. Accompanying Comrade Nguyen Van Linh were Comrades Dao Duy Tung, Political Bureau member and party Central Committee secretary; Nguyen Cong Tao, minister of agriculture and food industry; and Le Viet Anh, general director of the Southern Dairy Corporation.

Comrade Nguyen Van Linh commended Thai Van Tam and his family for their good idea of boldly investing in the development of livestock breeding, which benefits the family while producing products for society. He took note of Tam's idea and called for Minister Nguyen Cong Tao to pay attention to the aspirations of Tam's family, as well as of many others, for state supply of good livestock breeds. At the same time, he advised Tam's family to pay attention to the milking and processing of milk in order to ensure cleanliness for consumers.

The comrade general secretary then went to the Southern Dairy Corporation, which is directly subordinate to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry. He praised the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry and the Southern Dairy Corporation for their many efforts to cooperate with the party and state in taking care of the vital issues of the people's livelihood. Now, milk is not only essential for old and sick people, children, and heavy workers, but it is also a necessary source of food to overcome malnutrition and help improve the diet of people throughout the country. Developing the raising of dairy cattle will meet these and considerably reduce the state's need for foreign exchange as a result of a smaller requirement for imported milk. He urged the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry and the Southern Dairy Corporation to pay attention to producing good breeds and to accelerating technological activities to help people in all localities develop the raising of dairy cattle.

Nguyen Co Thach Attends Diplomatic Symposium

BK1103073890 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] The Vietnamese Foreign Ministry has held in Hanoi a scientific symposium entitled Ho Chi Minh and Diplomatic Work in anticipation of the centenary of the late President Ho Chi Minh's birth. Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach, leaders of concerned ministries, and veterans in the diplomatic circle attended the symposium. More than 30 reports delivered at the symposium brought out the precious lessons of President Ho Chi Minh in creating a combined strength from that of the nation and the epoch—the genuine patriotism and internationalism, diplomatic struggle, and military and political struggles, and state diplomacy and people's diplomacy. [sentence as heard]

Radio Reports Shortcomings in Recruiting Task

BK1003044090 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] The first batch of troops in Quang Ngai Province has just been inducted. An inquiry into the recruiting task reveals that nearly all district authorities are still

neglecting the propaganda task to make youths understand the military obligation law. In some districts, guidance has been provided casually and the task of drafting youths seems to have been assigned entirely to village and district military agencies. Mass organizations have not coordinated with families to motivate youths to perform their military service.

The mass media has carried too few mentions of the role, responsibility, and duty of youths in fulfilling their military obligations. As a result of the failure to conduct propaganda well, the exact number of youths inducted in Duc Pho District cannot be determined. Many youths fled after receiving draft orders. In this phase, only 87 percent of the district's draft-age youths—the lowest number in the province—were inducted.

Journalists' Association Discusses 1990 Tasks

BK1203130090 Hanoi International Service in English 1100 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] The Vietnam Journalists' Association Executive Committee has recently held its third plenary meeting reviewing its past activities and discussing its tasks for 1990. The meeting came to the assessment that Vietnamese press has recently diversified its activities and timely reported people's suggestions and criticism to the party and government. However, there are still hesitations and awkwardness in news coverage. Regarding the association tasks in 1990, the meeting emphasized the necessity of pushing the renovation in the press and its participation in popularizing the law on the press passed recently by the National Assembly and in exercising freedom of speech.

Australia

Analyst Views Return of Northwest Cape Facility

BK1303101790 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 13 Mar 90

[From the "International Report" program]

[Text] One of the big three joint defense facilities Australia shares with the United States is to be handed back to Canberra's control after nearly 30 years. The Northwest Cape communications base in western Australia is being returned as part of America's defense cuts and because the site is becoming obsolete to U.S. strategic policy. The other two joint facilities are at Pine Gap and Nurrungar in central Australia.

The Australian Government first proposed the idea of handing back Northwest Cape more than a month ago, and the return of sovereignty means that Canberra will have to fund annual operating costs at around Australian $30 million. But strategic analyst (Andrew Mack) [head of the Peace Research Center at the Australian National University, Canberra] told John Shovelin that the handback is largely a symbolic gesture.

[Begin recording] [Mack] In practical terms, that will not mean all that much. At the moment, the situation is that messages to United States submarines and indeed other combat platforms are relayed through the Northwest Cape. That will continue to be the case after the changeover of management takes place.

[Shovelin] So, it is business as usual.

[Mack] It is business as usual. But what the Australian Government is saying is that since it is the case that this facility is now much less important for communications with American submarines and the reason for that primarily is that America's missile-firing submarines—the Trident submarines—are now deployed off the western seaboard of United States and that is out of range of the Northwest Cape system. Since that is the case—that the facility is less important for them, and since at the same time it is more important for us, it is more important for our submarines—it makes sense to hand over management to Australia.

[Shovelin] So you would agree with the prime minister's comments that it is a step toward greater self-reliance?

[Mack] Well, I guess I would in a sense. Of course, it has been true that our submarines have had access to the facility, we have been able to communicate with our submarines through Northwest Cape up until now. The only practical difference that this will make is that if there was a situation in which there is a particular [word indistinct] between Australia and the United States as to who should have priority [words indistinct] other channels to communicating to other American submarines and Australian submarines. Up until now it was the United States would have have (?determined) that issue, and from now as a consequence of our taking over the management, it would be Australia that will decide that issue.

[Shovelin] So, you would not put it in the same category as Nurrungar or Pine Gap?

[Mack] Oh, indeed, no. Nurrungar and Pine Gape remain absolutely vital to American global strategic policy. Northwest Cape has not been in any sense comparable to that. It is important to point out there is no alternatives to either Pine Gap or Nurrungar. They are vital for that reason if none other.

[Shovelin] The government has flagged the decision as a landmark change. I guess what you are saying is that it is not really a landmark change?

[Mack] No, I think it has a certain amount of symbolic importance but it does not have an enormous amount of practical significance. [end recording]

Fiji

Traditional Chiefs Meet To Approve Constitution

BK1303062590 Hong Kong AFP in English 0613 GMT 13 Mar 90

[By Davendra Sharma]

[Text] Suva, March 13 (AFP)—Fiji's traditional chiefs meet here Wednesday [14 March] to approve a new constitution expected to entrench indigenous Melanesian political supremacy in this South Pacific island republic, officials said Tuesday.

The great council of chiefs, comprising some 70 Melanesian leaders from around the country, was to endorse a constitution replacing the 1970 document abrogated after two military coups in 1987, they said. Two drafts—and possibly a third—are expected to be considered by the chiefs during a three-day meeting which will cap more than two years of constitutional deliberations.

Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, who heads a civilian government, wants the new constitution in place by early 1991 to prepare for general elections in the second half of that year.

Military leader Major General Sitiveni Rabuka, who led the 1987 coups, has said that until a new constitution acceptable to the military was promulgated, his 5,000-strong army would continue to hold "the real power" in Fiji.

Ratu Mara's cabinet has publicly proposed a constitution giving Melanesians the majority of seats in a single house parliament and protecting the rights of the indigenous Fijians over other races, particularly ethnic Indians. That document fulfills the aims of the Rabuka-led coup in May 1987, which ousted the elected government of Timoci Bavadra, a coalition of Melanesian and

ethnic Indian interests. Indians and Melanesians each number about half of Fiji's 727,000 population.

The cabinet proposes Melanesians be given 37 seats, with representatives of 14 provinces elected by communal franchise—people of each ethnic group voting for their own candidates. The candidates would be nominated by the local chiefs. Indians would get 27 seats and Chinese and Europeans would share eight seats, with one seat for the Polynesian Rotumans. The posts of president and prime minister would be reserved for Melanesians.

A second document to be considered by the chiefs comes from the Constitutional Advisory and Inquiry Committee, which took submissions from political, religious and social groups. Committee chairman Colonel Paul Manueli proposes in his report a two-chamber parliament, with a 69-member lower house of representatives elected on a communal franchise. The committee wants a lower house comprising 37 Melanesian members from the 14 provinces, 27 Indians, four from other races and one Rotuman. An upper house senate would comprise 34 chiefs, 24 elected from the council of chiefs and 10 appointed by the president.

Both the cabinet and committee versions have been criticised by U.S. constitutional expert Albert Blaustein, who was commissioned by the cabinet to examine the two proposals. "Voter rolls based on race sounds too much like South Africa," Mr. Blaustein said. The method of selecting representatives for the house of representatives as proposed by cabinet "will appear too contrived to the outside world," he said.

Senior government officials say that Ratu Mara may be secretly working on a third, more liberal version of the first two proposals, taking into account Mr. Blaustein's criticisms.

Leader of the de facto opposition, Adi Kuini Bavadra, widow of Dr. [Timoci] Bavadra, said the chiefs had the chance to become a catalyst for change in Fijian society.

"There is no easy solution to bridging the economic and social gap between Fijians on the one and the other communities on the other," said Mrs. Bavadra.

She rejected both public versions of the new constitution, saying that the supreme law of the land must reflect the view of all Fijians.

New Zealand

Opposition Leader Wants Defense Pact With U.S.

BK1303074690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0715 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Wellington, March 13 (AFP)—A National Party government in New Zealand would conclude an "operative" defence arrangement with the United States, party leader Jim Bolger said Tuesday [13 March]. He said he expected to see United States warships return to New Zealand ports provided they did not carry nuclear arms.

The opposition party, around 20 percent ahead of the ruling Labour Party in opinion polls, on Friday reversed a long-held position when it endorsed the Labour government's anti-nuclear policy.

It said it would reject the United States policy of neither confirming nor denying the presence of nuclear weapons aboard ships. Elections are due in about six months.

The change was seen as effectively ending any chance of New Zealand returning to the ANZUS defence pact which ties Australia, New Zealand and the United States. The United States has expressed regret over the decision. [passage omitted]

It became clear Tuesday that National's decision is causing deep divisions in the National Party.

Backbencher Merv Wellington said the decision was "a Munich-type approach, which like appeasement will bring its own bitter fruit." He said the caucus voted 21 to 12 for the change with six MPs (Members of Parliament) absent. Of the 12 front bench MPs, nine supported change.

In an interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, Mr. Bolger said a National Party government would seek "active security arrangements with our allies" which he named as Australia, the United States and Britain.

Mr. Bolger said he could see no reason why, under a National government, ANZUS could not operate in a fashion that accommodated the New Zealand position.

"We cannot impose that on the Australians or the Americans but given the new sense of openness as demonstrated by the Baker-Moore meeting I am optimistic that, not immediately, but over time, we will move to a position where they are also open on the issue of New Zealand, Australia and the United States once again having an operative defence and security arrangement." [passage omitted]

"The world of diplomacy and defence is not static and the shift in American policy towards the Soviet Union has been dramatic," Mr. Bolger said.

"What we're asking in New Zealand is for a very small shift in their policy, and it's a shift in their policy which I think is inevitable, not because of New Zealand's decision, but because of the reality of the emerging concerns around the world," he added. He said the party's position was clearcut: New Zealand did not want nuclear arms.

"But we do want alliances with friends and allies and of course that would encompass a non-nuclear relationship, and non-nuclear ships would be welcome."

It was important for New Zealand's long-term friendship and alliance with the United States to continue and he would place a high priority on resolving the issue with the United States if National came to power, he said.

National's two defence spokesmen, Doug Mckinnon and Rob Munro, have both quit their shadow portfolios to protest the new policy. Mr. Bolger Tuesday named Doug Kidd the party's new defence spokesman. [passage omitted]

Government's 'Cautious Approach' on Lithuania

BK1303042890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0416 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Wellington, March 13 (AFP)—New Zealand, one of the few Western nations to have formally recognised the Soviet annexation of the Baltic states, Tuesday [13 March] took a cautious approach to Lithuania's declaration of independence.

A statement by Foreign Minister Mike Moore expressed good wishes towards the parties but made no declaration on New Zealand's position. A spokesman for the minister said Wellington was neither recognising nor refusing to recognise Lithuania. He confirmed a 1974 Labour government decision to recognise Moscow's annexation of the Baltic states but said foreign policy had changed since. "The nature of their country's politics and borders is for them alone to decide—we hope the result will be the best one for them, and will be respected by others," Mr. Moore said.

In his statement, the minister said there were signs that people were taking back control of their destiny in Eastern Europe, adding that there was nothing certain about the Soviet Union except changes.

National Party opposition leader Jim Bolger said that had he been prime minister, New Zealand would have inevitably recognised Lithuania. "If a country establishes itself as an independent nation it would be quite wrong for New Zealand to have a relationship which presumes that a formal colonial-type annexation existed," he said in an interview.

Papua New Guinea

Rebel Army Abducts Cease-Fire Comptroller

BK1303060690 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] The assistant deputy comptroller of the state of emergency on Bougainville has been placed under armed guard by the Bougainville Revolutionary Army [BRA]. A Radio Australia correspondent on Bougainville, Sean Dorney, reports the Papua New Guinea national government unsuccessfully tried to find the public servant on the island today.

Mr. (Ziak Malilee), the North Solomons provincial government administrative secretary, is a Bougainvillian and he was often threatened during the last 12 months.

The joint forces headquarters was abandoned on Sunday and the last of the national government security forces left Bougainville yesterday. However, Mr. (Ziak Malilee), who was abducted once on Sunday night by elements of the BRA, was again taken this morning.

The North Solomons provincial government task force, which arranged for the cease-fire, is now trying to negotiate with the BRA for Mr. (Ziak Malilee's) safe passage off Bougainville.

Meanwhile, international observers to monitor the implementation of the cease-fire on Bougainville are due to be briefed today by rebel leaders. AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATED PRESS says the 11-member delegation wants to travel to the former Bougainville Copper Limited township of Panguna for talks with the commander of the BRA, Sam Kauona, and his senior assistants.

Talks followed a meeting last night between Kauona and the delegation leader, the former Ghanian ambassador, Mr. (Ebabos).